TUNING IN

REALITY TV
TAKES A FAMILY
APPROACH

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The Shakerite

October 29, 2004 · Volume 75 · Issue 2 · Shaker Heights High School · 15911 Aldersyde Drive · Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

OUT LATE?

UNCOVERING
SHAKER'S
CURFEW

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CAST THAT BALLOT

· Shaker students rock the vote, but who influences their choices?

By Adam Weinstein
NEWS EDITOR

The old saying suggests the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. But this year's tightly contested presidential election has sent Justin Greenlee to the other side of the ballot.

Greenlee, who will vote for the first time Nov. 2, said he is leaning toward voting for Kerry even though his parents are Republicans.

"I feel like Kerry will take care of people in America," said Greenlee, who attributed his decision to "Kerry's strength and domestic issues."

Greenlee added that this was especially important to him because he has worked with the homeless.

Overall, Greenlee feels his family respects his pro-Kerry stance.

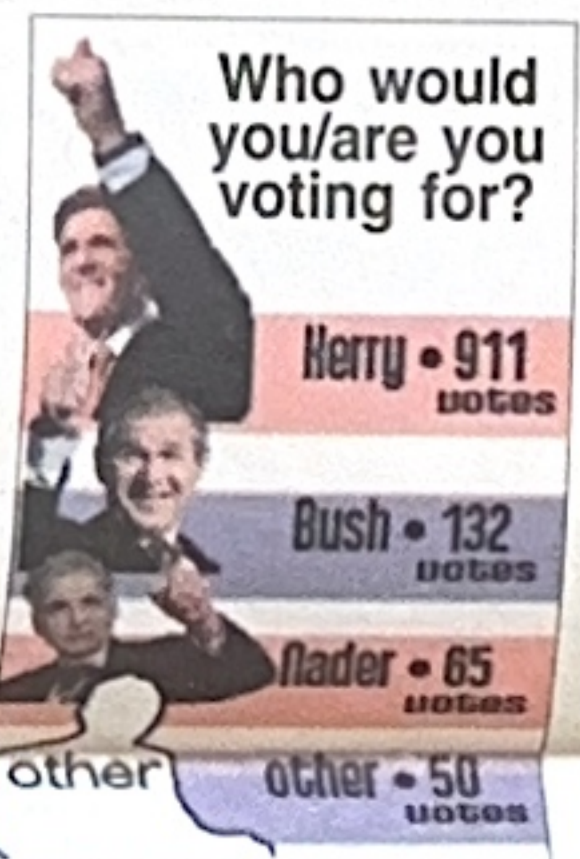
"They don't put pressure on me in terms of who I vote for, but I think having political conversations with them influences me," Greenlee said.

Greenlee's father, Mark Greenlee, said the difference of opinion doesn't pose a problem.

"There is no political litmus paper test in our family. Do I think he is voting for the wrong person? Yes. Am I glad he is considering the issues? Yes," he said.

Most voting seniors find themselves closer to their parents' political philosophies. Senior Dara Sobisch, like her parents, plans to vote for Kerry.

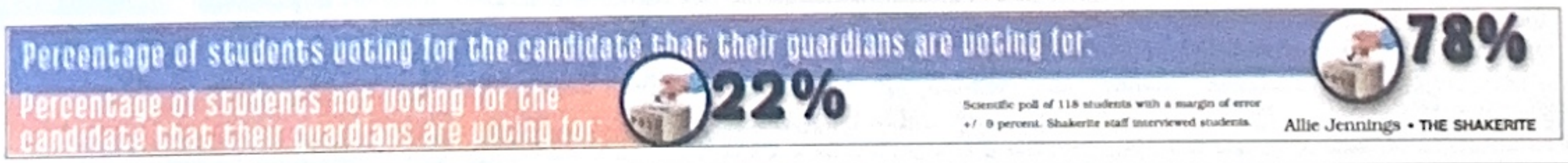
SEE POLITICS PAGE 2



Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

(Above) Hilry Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE
(Left) Kevin Margolius • THE SHAKERITE

SENIOR JULIE BROADBENT volunteers for the Bush/Cheney campaign by assembling yard signs. Left: A Sept. 4 Kerry/Edwards campaign rally at the Akron Firestone Stadium drew Shaker students.



Scientific poll of 118 students with a margin of error +/- 9 percent. Shakerite staff interviewed students.

Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

Photo illustration by Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

Violations challenge team unity

By Meghan Thompson
COPY EDITOR

This is the year, coaches tell athletes at the beginning of the season. We are the dream team. Well, the dream team of Shaker Heights, anyway.

Teams comprise many members for a good reason. If one wheel is missing, the whole car stalls. If one teammate is absent, the whole team will not function properly. Collectively, teammates must respect one another, work with one another, push one another, and win and lose together.

Unfortunately, the mistakes of a single individual might spoil the goals of a team.

Sophomore cross country runner John Gregg said that his team would be angry if a runner were kicked off. "We would be pissed off," Gregg said. "Depending on who it was, it might even affect our ability to run."

However, sophomore cross country team member Miriam Vieyra thinks such a loss wouldn't be devastating. "It obviously wouldn't make a difference," Vieyra said, "because if they were kicked off the team, they probably weren't a very positive influence in the first place."

Mike Eppich, a senior soccer and football player, said that an athlete was kicked off the soccer team last year for misconduct, but the result

SEE BEHAVIOR PAGE 12

Rival school games OK

· Griffith: Heights, Shaker students can attend each other's athletic contests

By Emily Grannis
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Contrary to a story in the Oct. 15 issue of the Cleveland Heights High School "Black and Gold," Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights students are permitted to attend each other's athletic events.

The article stated that administrators from the two schools met after the Sept. 17 fight between Shaker and Cleveland Heights students and agreed to ban their students from attending each other's games.

However, Principal Michael Griffith denies reaching this decision.

"That never - no, not at all," Griffith said as he read the article. "We were concerned in our conversation about our Thursday [Sept. 23] game . . . because [Heights] had an off day," he added.

"From our standpoint, we have not made any statement to our students about attending other school's games."

Cleveland Heights administrators were not available for comment.

Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

BENNIE THE BENGAL VII watches the Benedictine men's varsity soccer team defeat Shaker 1-0 Oct. 11.

Student strikes teacher

By Emily Grannis and Marguerite Moore
EDITORS IN CHIEF

A freshman allegedly assaulted her social studies teacher during second period Oct. 15. The teacher involved requested that neither her name, nor that of the student, be used in this story.

According to a police report, the teacher "was struck in the face with an open hand, shoved into a locker, and pulled by the hair." Faculty and students said the incident began after a dismissal bell rang early.

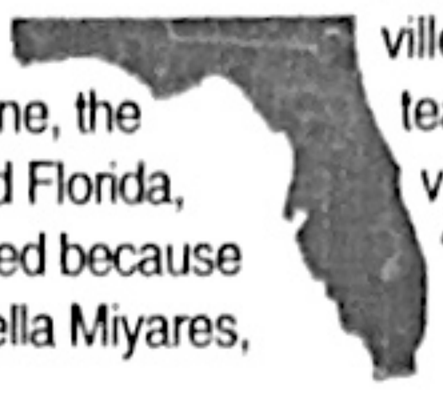
A faculty witness said the student left class early the day before and security had been unable to locate her. Therefore, the teacher was interested in keeping the student in the classroom. Sophomore classmate Latasha Morrow said that when the student stood to leave after the premature bell the following day, the teacher attempted to restrain her. Morrow then said that the student began to assault the teacher.

The alleged incident then moved into the hallway, where security guards detained the student. The student was then arrested by Shaker Heights Police officers and taken to the police station on Lee Road. According to high school Safety and Security Coordinator Victor Ferrell, the teacher did not appear injured but was emotionally upset.

"I'm always concerned about that happening, but I think it was an isolated thing," he said. "But one time is just too many."

The student faces expulsion as well as any criminal charges brought forth by the teacher.

Snow days get some company



Florida students used to complain about a lack of snow days, but hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, the most severe of four summer storms that ravaged Florida, have made that a thing of the past. Schools closed because of power outages and structural damage. Gabriella Miyares, a senior at Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, said in a phone interview that her district has eliminated teacher planning days and is considering decreasing winter vacation because of seven missed days.

"For Frances, we helped people clean up," she said. "For Jeanne, which wasn't as bad, we had hurricane parties."

Battle for better education

FAST FACTS

coming to a punch card near you:

- A bond issue, which raises money for stuff like **building repairs**.
- The ballot says the bond would raise **$23.5 million** for the schools.
- The money would also help the **libraries**, which are considered part of the school system for some obscure reason.
- If it passes, taxpayers would pony up an extra **$61.25 per $100 K** worth of property every year.
- "It will maintain the . . . quality of the schools and libraries," said Shaker resident Kim Atkinson.
- **"Taxes are high** enough. The schools need to find another way to get revenue," said **an anonymous parent** *who wouldn't let us print his name.*

OPINION• 'Rite Idea **endorsement** • PAGE 5

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rank this!

- Shaker earned the second-highest, or "**effective**," rating from the Ohio Department of Education for the '03-'04 school year because we hit **15 of 18** standards.
- Shaker made Adequate Yearly Progress, too. To get AYP, George Bush's standard from the **No Child Left Behind Act**, kids in 10 subgroups must prove proficiently in math and reading, and your attendance and graduation rates must measure up. Shaker's '04 **grad rate was 98.8 %**.
- If you don't make AYP for two straight years, your school has to **pay for** kids to get **private tutors.**
- Three straight years gets you a new curriculum and a **longer school year**. Plus, your principal could be replaced as the **government takes over**.
- Four non-AYP years? **New teachers**, school managed by **private company.**

• State-mandated tests take center stage as schools struggle to earn a passing grade on state report cards

By Emily Grannis
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"We want you guys to be math whizzes!" Beth Brazalovics, a kindergarten teacher at Lomond Elementary School told third and fourth grade students.

"Whizzes!" giggled the kids.

Brazalovics was helping the students learn basic math at Kumon, an after-school program. At three 50-minute sessions each week, students take math tests and then make corrections to prepare for the Ohio Proficiency Test in March.

Brazalovics, who spends 45-90 minutes grading after each session, thinks the extra work helps students become surer of themselves.

"If a child doesn't spend so much time with their fingers and struggling with basic facts . . . it makes them feel so much more confident," she said.

Partly because of programs like Kumon, the Shaker City School District received the second-highest, or "effective," rating from the Ohio Department of Education for the 2003-2004 school year. The state assigns districts and individual schools ratings of "excellent," "effective," "continuous improvement," "academic watch" or "academic emergency." The rankings are based on schools' ability to meet federal and state standards. The federal standard, known as "Adequate Yearly Progress," is met when students in 10 racial groups (for example African American, Hispanic and white) reach proficiency goals in math and reading. State standards are met when a minimum number of students demonstrate proficiency on third, fourth, sixth and ninth grade state tests. State standards also include minimum requirements for graduation and attendance. The "effective" ranking indicated that Shaker met 15 of the 18 standards.

Dale Whittington, who oversees testing, research and evaluation for the district, said Ohio developed part of the evaluation long before the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. Now government regulations have changed some of the standards.

"Different combinations of kids count for different purposes," she said. "Sometimes the little details make a big difference."

The final district-wide evaluation piece is the graduation rate. Shaker's 2003 graduation rate was listed as 98.8 percent. The ODE calculates the rate by dividing the number of graduates by the number of graduates plus the number of dropouts for that year. Graduation rate is not affected by students who take more than four years to graduate but is lowered by those who drop out and then return to school.

Each school is also evaluated individually on seven state indicators. The high school, Onaway and Lomond received "excellent," and the other elementary schools were rated effective.

The middle school was not rated because the state did not give tests at that level this year. The school passed the only applicable indicator – attendance rate.

The schools all use some of the same techniques to prepare students, such as tutoring, skills intervention during the school day and Saturday school until March. The schools also run separate programs.

Woodbury runs homework clubs and study sessions that focus on specific subjects. Chris Hayward, an assistant principal at Woodbury, said teachers often use past proficiency questions in class.

"We downplay it in the sense of not overwhelming [the students] with it, but infusing it in the curriculum," he said.

Dr. Lynn Cowen, Onaway's principal, thinks adult understanding is key to student success.

"Everyone has a part to play in the Shaker report card," she said. "By the time one Onaway student takes the proficiency, [he] will have had at least 350 extra hours [of practice] per year. When you have 350 more hours, you're looking at at least half a semester, maybe more, of writing and math."

Aside from basic skills in math and reading, Lomond Assistant Principal Sue Alig highlighted Lomond's focus: teaching "better life-long learning skills."

"We're able to clear up misunderstandings and confusion for [the students]," she said.

At Lomond, Brazalovics constantly encourages her students to improve.

"Check those answers over again and again and again," she told the class. "I don't care if you check it 100 times!"

"I checked it 199 times!" one boy called out.

"Well, then check it 200," Brazalovics replied.

KINDTERGARTEN TEACHER BETH Brazalovics works with third and forth grade students at Kumon, an after-school program that prepares students for the math section of the proficiency test. PATRICIA HITCHENS, WHO was laid off from the Cleveland schools, leads drill practice at the middle school (inset).

Hilry Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE

Former Cleveland students, teachers make Shaker home

By Adam Weinstein
NEWS EDITOR

The Shakerite sat down with Patricia Hitchens, a laid off Cleveland social studies and math teacher, and sophomore Will Warren, a former Cleveland student.

"The Cleveland Public Schools are a dinosaur; it's too big for its own good," Hitchens said.

She cited high student to teacher ratios in the lower grades, parents who are content to see their kids get D's and the use of teachers who live outside Cleveland and lack a stake in the success of the community as reasons why the schools have such low performance.

"The let go of everybody that didn't have a special education, math or science degree," Hitchens said.

She doubts Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Cleveland School District CEO, will improve the situation.

"As long as she's getting her $300,000 a year, what does she care? She tried some things that worked in New York, and we're not New York," Hitchens said, adding "I had sixth graders who could not read."

Warren, who left Cleveland in fifth grade, feels he is receiving a better education at Shaker.

"They generally say Shaker schools are better; they teach you better. The teacher explains more, you can ask questions, and there is more room for help," he said.

"I guess in Shaker the teachers expect a little bit more and they have better resources than in Cleveland," Warren continued.

Some worry that former Cleveland students face a tough adjustment.

"It's not enough to just stick your kid in a school system. There is a cost to remediation. Students are exponentially further behind in Cleveland, kids are easily two grade levels behind, but we [Shaker] are the first place a lot of people that leave Cleveland go," Hitchens said.

Issues, not parents, guide teen votes

• They consider parent views, but look to Iraq, economy when choosing

FROM **POLITICS** PAGE 1

Sobisch's biggest concern is the war in Iraq.

"The fact we are even in Iraq is completely ridiculous. Bush is misleading the American people that we are winning," she said.

For Charles Inniss, a senior who also intends to vote for Kerry, the three biggest issues are the war in Iraq, nuclear proliferation and the economy.

"Everyday my dad gets worried and says, 'I'm glad I have a job,' " Inniss said.

Justin Greenlee

When it comes to the political opinions of younger teens though, the views of parents seem to play a greater role.

"My parents have influenced me," said sophomore Chris Wright, who said he would vote for Bush if he were eligible.

Liz Wright, Chris' mom thinks she and his father have a big influence on his political views.

"I think that he probably listens to our conversations, hearing what our views are on what's going on in politics," she said.

She added that living in Shaker probably will make him more of a liberal thinker.

However, he still feels that his political opinions aren't completely derived from those of his parents.

"They're not my only influence. I'm able to like him [Bush] on my own, and I do."

School, where students spend seven plus hours a day, has an impact as well.

> "There is no political litmus paper test in our family. Do I think [Justin] is voting for the wrong person? Yes. Am I glad he is considering the issues? Yes."
>
> Mark Greenlee
> father of senior Justin Greenlee

Some teachers at the high school are known to make their political viewpoints known in class including social studies Department Chairman Timothy Mitchell.

"I put it out there like that because my political perspective and ideology is shaped by the history I teach and vice versa. I want them [his students] to see the contemporary relevance of the past," Mitchell said.

While Mitchell expressed concern that he might inhibit his students from expressing different views, he said he is willing to take that risk.

Greenlee likes the fact that some teachers make their political viewpoints known.

"It makes it easier — not harder — to dissect what I believe in. It's not detrimental," Greenlee said.

Whatever the issues affecting how young voters determine who to vote for may be, the fact remains that the majority of eligible young voters simply don't vote. In the 2000 presidential election only 42 percent of 18 to 24 year olds voted, compared to 70 percent of those over 25 years of age.

The candidates at a glance

SENATOR JOHN KERRY

- **Education** He would increase funding for after-school programs in schools that demonstrate improvement. He would also offer a tax credit up to $4000 for parents of college students and reward states that keep tuition at public universities down.
- **Draft** He would increase the all-volunteer army by 40,000 active duty troops to prevent a draft.
- **Economy** He would cut middle class taxes and roll back tax cuts for those who earn more than $200,000 a year. He would also reward businesses that keep jobs in the United States.
- **War in Iraq** He would ask for more help from the United Nations, other allies and the Iraqi people.
- **Abortion** Kerry is pro-choice.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

- **Education** He would spend $250 million to assess reading and math at high schools. He would also strengthen HeadStart and provide three tax credits worth $7,500 to parents of college students.
- **Draft** He would not support a draft.
- **Economy** He would support vocational training and aid small businesses.
- **War in Iraq** He would continue his current strategy, which includes training Iraqi soldiers and police officers to assume responsibility for the country's security after the scheduled January 2005 elections.
- **Abortion** Bush is pro-life. He signed the Partial Birth Abortion Act, which was later challenged in the court system.

Compiled from www.johnkerry.com and www.georgewbush.com.
Photos and text edited by Lauren Weiss.

Walk sheds *light on* suicide

By Marguerite Moore
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For Debbie Hermann, a walk at Hawken Upper School on a cold Saturday night carried special importance.

Hermann and a committee of other volunteers made the Cleveland Out of Darkness walk come to life. The Oct. 9 event, designed to raise awareness about suicide and depression and support survivors, was initiated and organized by Hermann and her niece C.J. Marshall, a 2004 Hawken School graduate. The pair took the initiative in honor of Marshall's brother, 16-year-old Jon Marshall. The Chagrin Falls High School student committed suicide last March.

"We wanted to address the issue," Hermann said. "We weren't going to whisper about it. We were going to walk out of the dark."

This was the first walk for the Northeast Ohio chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This year 25 community walks were scheduled nationwide, but the Cleveland one was the only one held at night.

"The walk originally was Coming From Darkness into Dawn," said Cathy Ferrer, executive director of the Northeast Ohio AFSP chapter. Participants would have gathered in the middle of the night and walked unitl sunrise. "When we found out that a lot of high-school students wanted to come, we wanted a safe place where parents wouldn't be concerned. We wanted it to be totally protected."

Organizers rescheduled the walk for 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. University Hospitals, Charter One Bank and Metro Health System sponsored the event, and,, along with Hawken School, were able to cover all expenses.

"Hawken rallied for us," Hermann said. "They rose to the occasion and gave us everything free."

According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people. In 2001, 3,971 youths aged 15-24 died as a result of suicide. Furthermore, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry states that 5 percent of adolescents may have depression, a mental illness, but that most do not receive treatment.

School nurse Paula Dworkin helped raise awareness about the event among Shaker students. She recruited participants after receiving a notice about the event.

"I see a lot of it in this job. A lot of teenagers struggle with issues of depression and thoughts that are scary to them," she said.

Junior Aviva Ariel, who raised $151, believes aiding suicide prevention efforts is very important.

"If the small amount of money that I raised can help save a life, then it was definitely worth my time," she said.

The 300 participants followed a path around the campus that was lit with laterns. The walk ended at a brightly-lit football field, giving literal meaning to coming "out of the darkness." After the walk, the Metro Health Choir sang "Amazing Grace," and people enjoyed refreshments while listening to former University School student Will Bowen play the guitar. While the atmosphere was not somber, it was clear that people had come to make a difference.

"It seemed like a good cause," said sophomore Hannah Whitehead, who attended the walk. "It's more of a physical reminder than just signing a paper or giving money."

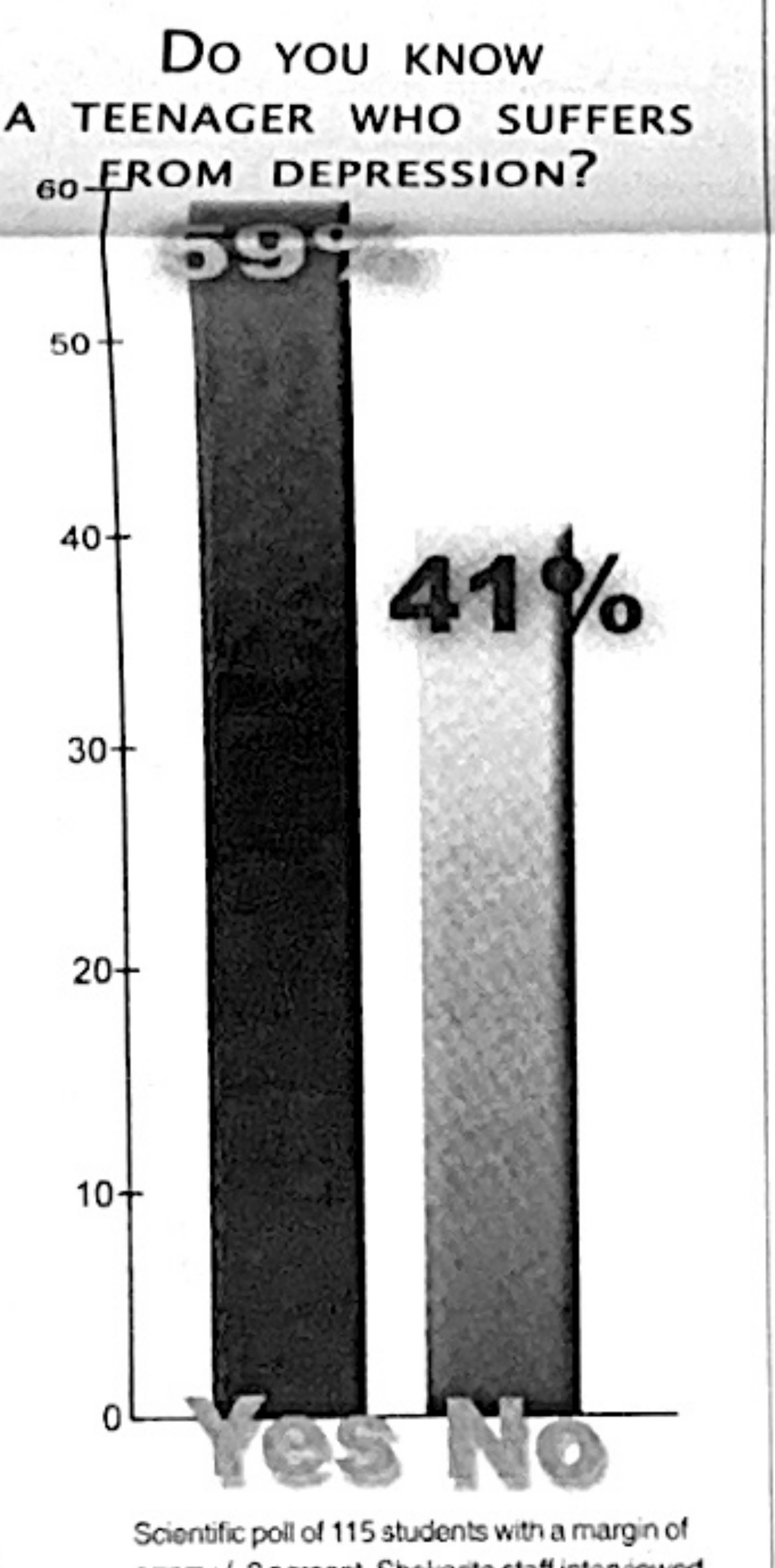
Dworkin emphasized that publicity about depression is crucial.

"It needs to be out there," she said. "It's an illness. There's help."

Facts about teenagers and suicide

- *Suicide is the third leading cause of death for people aged 15- to19-years-old, claiming the lives of 11 out of 100,000 people every year. Suicide is the sixth leading cause of death for 5 to 14 year olds, claiming the lives of 1.5 out of 100,000 people. However, only one out of every 300 attempts is successful.*
- People who commit suicide consider it a solution to problems in their lives or as a way to relieve stress.
- Asking someone if he is contemplating suicide will not give him the idea, instead, the question gives him a chance to talk about problems he may be having.
- Depression, which affects approximately 5 percent of minors, is a treatable mental illness. People who are depressed should seek psychiatric help.
- Symptoms of depression include: a change in routine or habit, violent actions, drug or alcohol use and complaining of "feeling rotten inside." Someone who is suicidal may put his affairs in order or make comments such as "I won't be seeing you anymore."

Compiled from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and www.healthyplace.com by Lauren Weiss



Scientific poll of 115 students with a margin of errorr +/- 9 percent. Shakerite staff interviewed students.
Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

Student suffers slight concussion at dance

By Bobby O'Connor
STAFF REPORTER

Although the school rumor mill churned out that a fight at homecoming prompted an early end to the dance, security officials said they ended it because a student sustained a slight concussion and some bruising from a fall.

Freshman Robert Morrow fell while he was dancing and was kicked – intentionally, he believes — in the head by an unknown person. The kick started a fight among three or four students.

Morrow feels that he did not do anything to provoke the incident.

Morrow claims that the person who kicked him in the head was not dancing and did not slip, but instead came up to him and kicked him.

"I could not see who it was, but I think it was an upperclassman," Morrow later recalled.

The incident happened around 11:15 pm in the north gym. Security guards stopped the music and closed the dance, which was scheduled to end at midnight, along with school officials. The police are not currently involved.

Head of security Victor Ferrell said that the security staff is investigating this incident.

He said at press time that two students had been disciplined, but he declined to give more specific information.

"This type of incident has never happened in the past 11 years I have been here," he said.

Youth Ending Hunger/Interact
sponsors
A Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction
Tuesday, November 2, 2004
at Shaker Heights High School
6:00-8:00 PM
Tickets are $7 for adults, $5 for students and $3 for children
All proceeds go to the
Domestic Violence Center of Greater Cleveland
BRING YOUR APPETITE, CASH & FRIENDS!

Shaker Heights Teacher's Association
SHTA
Professionals Dedicated to Educating
Shaker's Youth

A new take on trick or treat

Talk about inappropriate: Among the hot Halloween costumes for **CHILDREN** this year are pimp and ho costumes, which include accessories such as a pimp hat, jewelry and money. The costumes cost between $40-50 and can be purchased on Brandsonsale.com. "We sell unique stuff that pushes the envelope," company spokesman Johnathon Weeks Jr. told the Washington Post.

I registered to vote. Really, I did.

Christopher Inniss
STAFF REPORTER

Choose or lose. Vote or die. Rock the vote. As a young black man who watches enough TV to be culturally educated, the message is quite clear: voting is crucial. So in keeping with MTV's and Puff Daddy's mandates, I did my part and registered to vote.

When two months passed and I did not receive a voter's registration card, I began to worry and decided to register to vote at school.

Two weeks later, I received my voter's registration card and I was satisfied. My twin brother, however, has not yet received his voter's registration card. On Oct. 4, the cutoff date for registration in Ohio, he called the Cleveland board of elections to inquire about his state of registration and received startling news: not only did they not have a record of him having registered to vote, but they also had no record of my registering to vote, and I had registered twice!

We were told that we would have *to drive the half an hour to downtown Cleveland to the county board of elections office, where we would fill out yet another* registration form.

I was irate. When on three separate occasions I must register to vote (and when only persistent phone calls spared me a rude surprise on Election Day) I know that I am one among a select few who care enough to keep nagging.

I think about the Americans who, to provide a meager living for their families, must get up at 4 a.m. and work until 7 p.m. only to come home, too exhausted to look over their child's homework let alone verify that they have been properly registered to vote. These people take time out of their busy lives to be active citizens- why can't the county board of elections realize that? What about the countless teenagers who turned 18, registered and received a voter's registration card in the mail? They certainly will not check to see if they are properly registered.

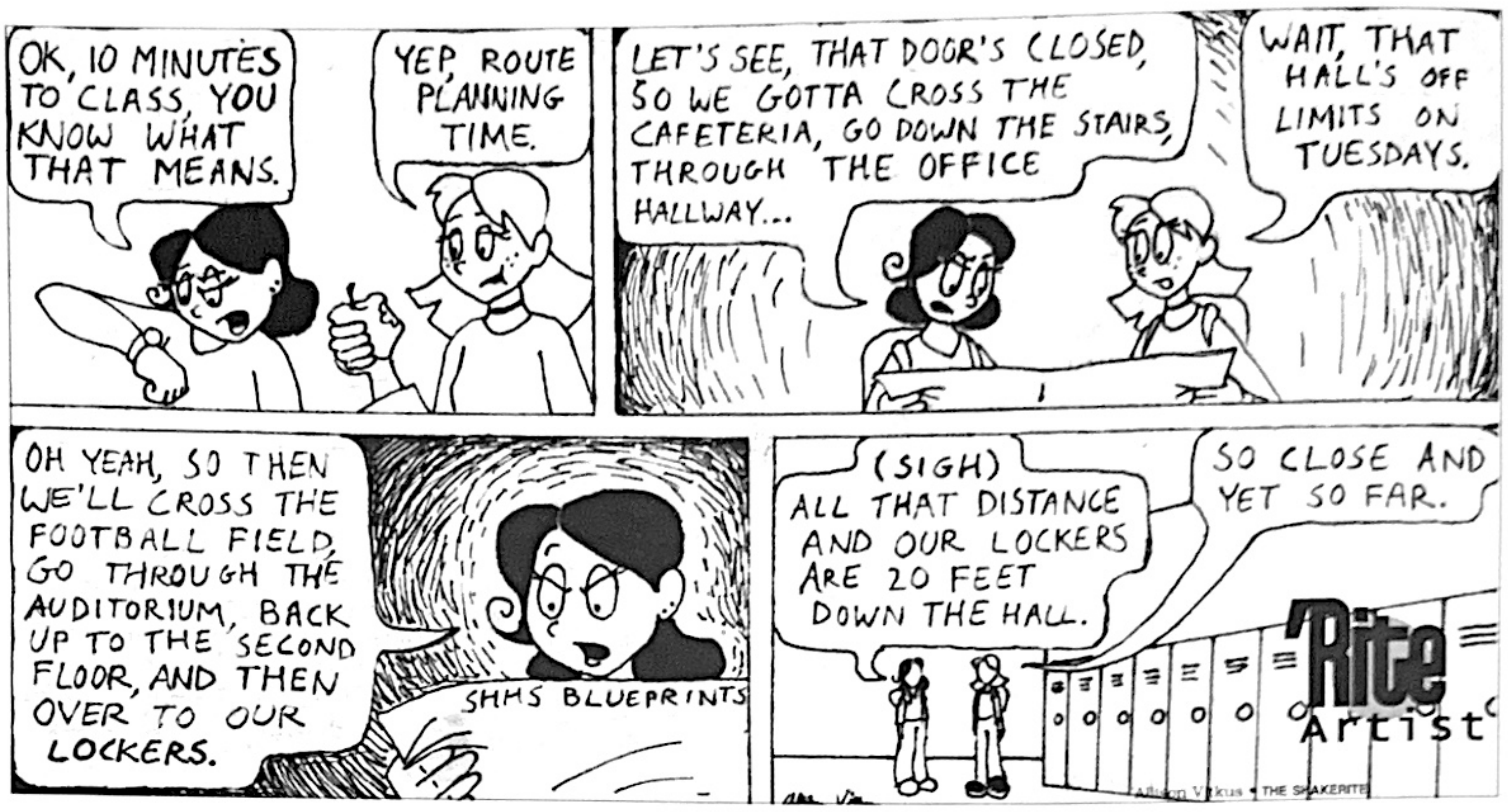
Political pundits are fond of calling non-voters lazy. I beg to differ.

When I asked the people at the county board of elections why I was not registered to vote after twice submitting a completed form, I was told that they were sorry but that they were understaffed. I started to ask why they were shorthanded, but I realized that I just didn't care.

There I was, in the battleground state of Ohio, almost denied my vote and receiving only a spurious "sorry." After an election four years ago that came down to 537 Florida votes, I know that every vote must count. I lay the dysfunction of voter registration solely on the shoulders of our state government.

When elections committees set up by the state cannot even secure my vote, I can only imagine the problems they must have when counting ballots. Even now, I do not know if I am actually registered to vote.

I do, however, know that states need to do their jobs in order for America to rock the vote.


OK, 10 MINUTES TO CLASS, YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
YEP, ROUTE PLANNING TIME.
LET'S SEE, THAT DOOR'S CLOSED, SO WE GOTTA CROSS THE CAFETERIA, GO DOWN THE STAIRS, THROUGH THE OFFICE HALLWAY...
WAIT, THAT HALL'S OFF LIMITS ON TUESDAYS.
OH YEAH, SO THEN WE'LL CROSS THE FOOTBALL FIELD, GO THROUGH THE AUDITORIUM, BACK UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR, AND THEN OVER TO OUR LOCKERS.
SHHS BLUEPRINTS
(SIGH) ALL THAT DISTANCE AND OUR LOCKERS ARE 20 FEET DOWN THE HALL.
SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR.
'Rite Artist

Allison Vitkus • THE SHAKERITE

Kerry the clear choice for young Americans

the 'Rite Idea

When choosing a president, voters must consider what is best for the country's future. Even though Republicans have chastised John Kerry for what they call "flip-flopping" policies, his ideas on issues that most directly affect teens are clear.

John Kerry promises to fund the No Child Left Behind Act. The Bush administration implemented NCLB as part of the biggest push for education reform in the nation's history, but has failed to allocate enough money for schools to do all the testing and record keeping required. Although the act is flawed, it is unlikely any politician will repeal it. Thus, the nation's schools need a president who will fund it. For Ohio, where the school funding system has been declared unconstitutional, federal funds are especially crucial. Kerry also proposes up to $4,000 in tax deductions for college per year.

Despite Bush's quest to liberate Iraq and its oil, gas prices are rising exorbitantly. While Bush continues to support old friends in the oil industry, Kerry plans to break the U.S. dependence on Middle Eastern oil by finding alternative sources of fuel, employing clean coal technology and encouraging the auto industry to produce more fuel-efficient cars.

Finally, unlike President Bush, John Kerry opposes drilling, a cruel and environmentally destructive endeavor, in Alaska.

Cleveland leads the nation in poverty and child poverty. Bush was the first president to have a net job loss during his term since Herbert Hoover left office in 1933. He proposes sending unemployed workers back to school, but how can you support your family if you have to pay for schooling? John Kerry plans to give companies incentives to bring jobs back to the U.S. instead of exporting them to other countries. He pledged to raise the minimum wage from $5.15 to $7 an hour. He also wants to make health care widely available by allowing employers to purchase the same health insurance plan that covers federal employees.

Kerry has criticized *the stop loss order that currently forbids military personnel from leaving the service when their enlistments expire.* He plans to increase the number of military personnel through more active recruitment and expansion of the independent ready reserves, tactics the government employed during the 1940s and 1950s.

KERRY
THE REAL DEAL
EDWARDS

Not only does Bush not acknowledge the backdoor draft, but he also offers no plans to build up the military. Instead he continues to extend tours of duty and pull reservists into prolonged active service. Meanwhile, the Pentagon has already planned the procedure for drafting thousands of doctors and nurses should the order be given.

In addition to these policy concerns, Bush's presidency has been marked by lies, misleading statements and an unjustified war. When the president cannot be trusted, the country suffers both domestically and internationally. The fact that we have to doubt every word that any Bush official utters is a concern that we cannot ignore.

As the world grows more confusing, it is increasingly critical that our leader is straightforward with the American people. These are the qualities needed to unite and advance our country, and the candidate best suited to lead the American people in the right direction is John Kerry. Vote for Kerry Nov. 2.

Much-needed repairs worth bond cost

Concerning Shaker's school and library bond issue:

It's déjà vu all over again. There's an issue on the upcoming ballot to raise taxes to fund Shaker schools. Just like every other time, it is important to pass this issue.

It is essential to keep the schools and libraries in good condition. As many students have noticed, we are taking classes in buildings that are old enough to qualify for Social Security.

This new bond will raise money to renovate the buildings and prevent costly damage. It would raise more than $23 million, all going directly to maintenance projects like replacing windows and doors, repairing roofs and replacing old computers. Without these projects, the schools and libraries could be in decrepit, even dangerous states in only a few years.

> No school system can survive without the support of the community

Of course, the repairs come at a cost. Property taxes, already high, will be raised to fund the project. However, this new tax hike is chump change compared to other levies and bonds. For a home valued at $100,000, taxes will rise a mere $5.10 per month.

the 'Rite Idea

It seems a small price to give up that extra sandwich to pay for a valuable project such as the one at hand.

Shaker is a unique community where measures like these can pass easily. Talking to campaigners for the bond, all were optimistic about its chances. In fact, in all of Shaker's history, only three bonds or levies have failed. No school system can survive without the support of the community, but with Shaker 538th in line among Ohio school districts awaiting state funds for construction, the community becomes more essential than ever. Let's face it: Taxes don't draw people to Shaker. Our schools do. For your school's future and for Shaker's future, vote yes on the bond issue Nov. 2. Most importantly, just vote.

Bush/Cheney visits to Ohio since March 3, 2004	Kerry/Edwards visits to Ohio since March 3, 2004
13	20
Bush/Cheney campaign ad spending in Ohio Oct. 14-20	Kerry/Edwards campaign ad spending in Ohio Oct. 14-20
$2,084,080	$2,378,245

Cutoff times for dance entry are set for students' own good

By Mere Banchek
STAFF REPORTER

Ever wonder why you can't get into school dances past a certain time after the dance starts? Could it be because the dance committee sets strict rules, or could it be that there are not enough chaperones available?

Anyone who has attended one of these dances would most likely know the answer; the staff and Student Council are trying to prevent students from coming to the dance drunk or high. In the spring of 2003, a policy known as cut-off time was established to prevent students from entering the dance after a pre-determined time — in this case, 9:30 pm. This cutoff time was established to shorten the amount of time students would have to drink alcohol or use drugs before the dance, and thus lessen the chance of them arriving under the influence.

Although by law Shaker has the right to request that a student suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol be tested, Principal Michael Griffith does not wish to exercise this option. Rather, he has faith in the students of Shaker Heights High School that they will have more respect and responsibility for themselves and others.

Thus far, the policy has not affected the number of students who attend dances.

Griffith said he doesn't believe the policy encourages post-dance partying. He said staff keep their eyes and ears open for the possibility of preventing an after party that could involve underage drinking and drug usage.

"We try to keep our ear to the ground to be aware [of anyone drunk or high] and bring attention to the police," Griffith said.

Griffith's hope is to prevent all drinking before school dances. We should be thankful that our principal trusts his students enough not to administer Breathalyzer tests. So now it is up to us to gain his trust and give our respect in order to uphold his hope of preventing underage drinking in our high school.

10
second
tick offs

Bumper cars, anyone?

HEY STUDENTS! Listen up…the oval is not the place to play bumper cars. I am sick and tired of coming out to my car after school only to find that my car has been hit once again by someone who clearly doesn't know how to drive. *Here is a tip you might want to follow: If you don't know how to parallel park, don't try. It's a lot harder than it looks.*

RJ Kafeal, senior

Hey! Not now!

When I'm rushing to class, trying to make it across the school in a scant four minutes, I don't have time to hold a conversation. So why do people insist on asking how I'm doing? You're walking away when you ask, so you clearly don't care, and there's no time for me to answer anyways. Just a simple "hey" or "yo" will suffice.

Jason Plautz, senior

This ain't Antarctica

Hey custodians, turn up the heat! I'm tired of feeling like I'm an ice cube in all of my classes. A school building is supposed to protect us from the elements, not make us a part of them.

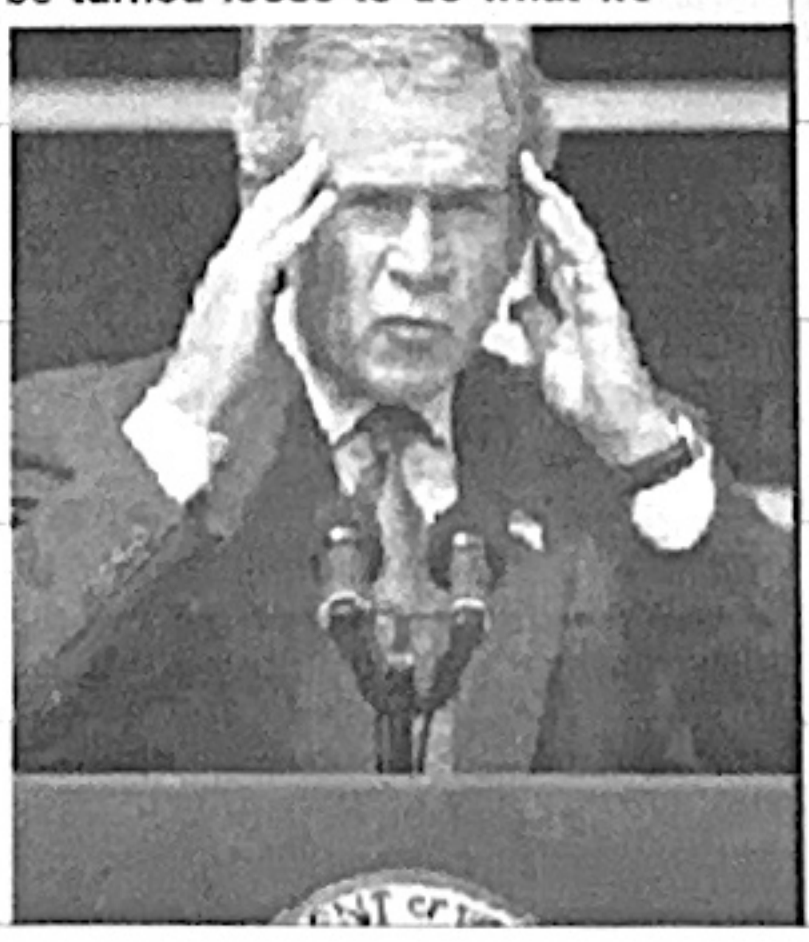
Sarah Qua, junior

Ticked off about something?

Tell Peeves, The Shakerite's new 10-second tick off logo. He just can't wait to hear from you! Submissions must include your name and cannot exceed 100 words. Drop them in the slot outside room 229, or email them to **shakerite@shaker.org.**

Reality Chart

things politicians wish they hadn't said



Politician	What they said	What we heard
Ronald Reagan 40th president (R)	"There is a **mandate** to impose a **voluntary** return to traditional values."	A simple mixup of words . . . unless there's something more sinister going on
John Kerry senator (MA) (D)	"I actually did vote **for** the $87 billion, before I voted **against** it."	We kinda wish you'd take a side. Surely your posterior must hurt from sitting on the fence so much?
Gerald Ford 38th president (R)	"Things are more **like** they are **now** than they **have** ever **been**."	And now we're more confused than we ever were before
Charles de Gaulle former French president	"**China** is a big country, inhabited by many **Chinese**."	Possible translation error? Possible complete stupidity?
L. Douglas Wilder former governor (VA) (D)	"The first **black** president will be a politician who is **black**."	No translation error. Definite stupidity. In case we didn't know what a black president is. Thanks
Hillary Clinton Sentor (NY) (D)	"Give Bill a second term, and Al Gore and I will be **turned loose to do what we really want to do**."	This is either really diabolical or raunchy . . . We'd like to think both
Marion Barry former D.C.mayor (D)	"The brave men who died in Vietnam, **more than 100 percent** of which were black, were the ultimate sacrifice."	Maybe he's right. After all, the white devil can't truly be destroyed
Al Gore former vice president (D)	"During my service in the United States Congress, **I** took the initiative in **creating** the **Internet**."	Being so modest, he forgot to mention that he also founded the Red Cross and invented glue
Richard Nixon 37th president (R)	"I was **under medication** when I made the decision to burn the tapes."	What were you thinking? Or, what were you on? That would have been an interesting lawsuit.
George W. Bush president (R)	"Too many **OB-GYNs** aren't able to **practice** their **love with women** all across this country."	What about the pediatricians and veterinarians?

Let's all do the flex night thing

"I love flex night," freshman Hannah Rosenblatt said.

That's great, if you actually have it.

Flex night, a school policy that specifies one week night free of homework in each major subject, is intended to provide students with time to work on special projects and homework without the frustration of having to turn it the next day.

Emily Pek

Math teacher Georgette Young, who has taught at Shaker for 29 years, approves of flex night. She said that although some teachers choose not to honor flex night, it is a rule. She added that the policy has been in place throughout her career.

Rosenblatt and classmate Meredith Boyd agree that flex night helps students. Boyd said teachers seem to plan flex night logically around their own class schedules. Rosenblatt said teachers sometimes forget, but students are always quick to say, "Hey! It's flex night!"

Even if your teacher isn't expressing it to the class, they most likely have already worked flex night into your schedule. But speak up, because you never know when they might "forget."

> *Flex night should be consistently observed. The school officially recognizes it, yet many teachers still don't regularly respect the rights of their students to have an evening off.*

Teachers in the ninth grade Bridges program make an effort to observe flex night and testing schedules. They give each student a homework and class work syllabus that details assignments for the week to ensure students won't have more then three tests on any given day. Bridges teachers meet every week to discuss and document their lesson plans. Just in case the students lose their syllabi, the Shaker schools' website (shaker.org) posts copies. I applaud those teachers who take time out of their schedule to make life a little easier on their students.

Flex night should be consistently observed. The school officially recognizes it, yet many teachers still don't regularly respect the rights of their students to have an evening off. Everybody agrees that homework is a big pain. While homework is fundamental to learning, equally important is time to take part in extracurricular activities.

Got an opinion?

The Shakertie wants to hear from you! Letters to the editor must be signed and not exceed 300 words. Deliver your letters to Room 231, or email them to shakerite@shaker.org

Who cares what you think? >>>>>

Next month's Forum:

How much time do you spend **complaining** each day? Why do you **complain**? What are your **complaints**? Students, do you spend lunch **whining** about school, teachers and parents? And teachers, how much time do you really spend in the faculty lunchroom **commiserating** about your students, administrators and parents? Ever lost any friends 'cause you complain too much? What's your **number one complaint**? Let us know for next month's Forum! **Write** to shakerite@shaker.org with your 50-ish word responses by Friday, Nov. 12.

For our first ever Forum page, The Shakerite asked what you think of skanky clothes.

We the People

Here's what Shaker said this month.

Look, it's a headband . . . No! It's a skirt

Shannon Ashford
senior

Ahhh...the halls of Shaker High School. I have spent the majority of my life in these halls for the past three and a half years. I witness the omnipresent swearing, pushing, immaturity, and now this year...SKIN! I'm not talking about arms but about the occasional revealed posterior. I understand that it gets hot outside and inside the building, but the skirts that can be substituted for headbands are distracting to the learning process. Short skirts are all well and good, but if unsuspecting, unwilling citizens have to see what your mother gave you, or lack thereof...Surely that's a violation of some inalienable right!

Kids these days

Alice Kutil
staff

As a mature adult who graduated from this high school a thousand years ago (1956), when we had dress codes, I think the kids (girls) show too much flesh. I also think the boys are asking for back problems later on as they walk trying to hold up their pants with their knees. PJs are for the bedroom!

"Take it all off"

Matt Herzfeld
junior

I fear clothing is quite inappropriate. Sure, it serves some functions, the obvious one being warmth, but overall the cumbersome and, quite frankly, often uncomfortable clothes would be better suited to be put to permanent rest in drawers and closets. Take it off, and keep it off. A nude school is a healthy school. Without all that needless clothing to distract and corrupt the young innocent minds a Shaker High School, a pure and true learning environment can come to the forefront. Think of the benefits to be found in nudism: no need to waste endless allowance on the latest fashions, no need to judge others by their clothing and no tan lines. Sure, some may get "cold," but just pump up the heat. Sure, some may be "shy." To them, I say undergarments are optional, yet not recommended for females over a certain bust size. Truly, the benefits of nudism heavily outweigh the negatives, and to Mr. Griffith and the School Council I say: Look forward into the dawn of a new and free century for us all, where we can finally live free from the dreadful burden of clothing.

Look on the inside

Calvin Washington III
freshman

Who is to say what someone is wearing is skanky? I don't think that anyone in this school wears skanky clothes. Anyway, a shirt cannot be considered skanky; a shirt is something that explains you. I don't think anybody knows the true definition about skanky clothes. I think that skanky is just another stereotype but in different text. I don't think that people should get caught up to see if a shirt they are wearing is skanky. Be different: Don't think about if people think a simple shirt you are wearing is skanky. But nobody should say somebody is skanky, especially if they don't even know what the word means or can give an example of skanky clothes. I don't think people should be wasting their time on judging if someone's clothes are skanky; for one I think it is rude and also, who are you? The Queen of England? Also it is not showing any respect. Here's a good tip: People should not pay attention if somebody's shirt is skanky, 'cause they should be focused on what's on the inside.

We asked you what you thought of students' decisions to wear questionable clothing at school; 33 percent of you cited the First Amendment and freedom of expression in your defense of students' fashion choices.

But students' First Amendment right to bare skin isn't as clear as you might think.

In 1969, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that high school students do indeed have First Amendment rights. The Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District decision protected students' right to wear black armbands to protest the Vietnam War. However, in its opinion, the court also said that students have free speech rights until their speech interferes with school or the rights of other students. Later decisions seized on that language to create more room for school administrators to determine what types of speech are inappropriate for school.

So, those of you who wrote that the school needs to establish and/or enforce a dress code may have been on to something.

Compiled by Emily Grannis

Forum by the Numbers

Number of responses	46
Number of student responses	45
Number of adult responses	1
Number of responses from Dr. Yvonne Allen's classes	43
End of the World	2
It's all OK	4
Use in moderation	7
Ban it	2
Uncommitted	2
Wrong clothes, wrong place, wrong time	16
Freedom of expression	15
Degrades character	9
No effect on character	5
Budding nudist (all male)	5
Why?	
Attention	5
Peer Pressure	1
Women's rights	1
No self respect	5
Arrogance	1

Special thanks to Dr. Yvonne Allen's classes for their participation this month. Enjoy your doughnuts!

Save the overly-flashy clothes

Sarah Gutin
senior

I have never been one to openly criticize others fashion tastes. I don't consider myself up to par with the hottest trends because I wear what I feel comfortable in. However, I feel that I have to draw the line somewhere. There is nothing cute about a skirt so short that I get the full moon or a see-through shirt that is worn for the sole purpose of showing off a bra. Everyone has a butt and most girls wear bras, but they should not be open for public viewing. I am embarrassed for these girls; it is as if they have no self-respect. It's important to remember that school is a work place. If mothers dressed for work like some of the girls at school, they would be fired in heartbeat. The overly flashy clothes need to be saved for the weekend.

The cut-off line

Victor Nimmons
senior

While we are in school, students have the right to express themselves as they want to, to a certain extent. *Speaking as a male who does sag from time to time, it's not always that we want to have our rear end exposed, but it just* comes second nature to some of us and we don't even know that we're doing it. Not to say that I agree with sagging in general because sometimes it's just nasty, but I don't see anything wrong with a small tilt of the pants. Once again speaking as a male, I can't say that I disagree with most items of clothing that the ladies are wearing at our school. The girls here are proud of the way they look so why shouldn't they be able to show it off? Even though I am in favor of girls wearing pretty much what they want, I do believe there's a point where one has to say that she can't wear that. When there's a class going on and all of the boys are paying attention to a girl and not the teacher, with a puddle of saliva forming on their desks, that's the cut-off line.

Feeling disgusted

Joan Hexter
senior

Disgust is defined as a feeling of impatient irritation. This is what I feel at 8:50 every morning when we get a rude awakening to how our society is slowly being debased. A bright pink purse comes swinging around the corner, followed by stiletto heels and attached to them, long legs covered by roughly eight inches, if that, of ruffled fabric that tells Victoria's secret with every step. To top the outfit off, a tank, so tight it looks like it was painted on. Every glamorous imperfection of body is on display – more information than anybody ever wanted, or needed, to know. Clothing is appropriate depending on the situation and in a school a definition should be set as to what is acceptable and what is not. Clothing that is degrading to you and to the learning environment of others should not be permissible. I am truly disgusted.

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NSPA

"The Truth About Forever" by Sarah Dessen

While her boyfriend is at "brain camp," Macy has nothing to look forward to this summer except her job at the library. Ever since Macy's father died, she has made sure she is always in control. When she takes a job at Wish Catering,

she learns that life is not always controllable. The plot has you laughing one minute and crying the next. Sarah Dessen's style is unique. Her stories are not about superficial teenagers; shopping at the mall is not the climax of the book.

I don't want another Cinderella story

I have always been a movie fan. Even as a young child, I remember always looking forward to watching a video on rainy days when I got to watch videos.

LIZ KANTOR
ARTS EDITOR

At the age of 16, my love for movies, especially Disney, hasn't changed. However, my favorite movies now tend to be chick flicks. I love the romanticism with the comedy mixed in. I love how chick flicks can make you feel sad and happy at the same time. Before, I couldn't get through a chick flick without crying, but recently chick flicks have become too similar. It seems as if they are following a formula. A perfect chick flick equals girl meets boy; girl screws up and loses boy; girl gets boy back. The only way they differentiate themselves is through the situations and actors.

My favorite example of the similarity of chick flicks is "Chasing Liberty" and "First Daughter." Both films were set to come out summer 2003, but only "Chasing Liberty" came out then. "First Daughter" was released this fall. These two films are essentially the same movie. Both are about the president's daughter who feels very sheltered and just wants to be normal. She finds a guy and he helps to liberate her. She screws up and loses the boy. She uses her newfound liberation to get him back. There are two differences: the actors and where the girls' respective liberations take place. Could these movies be any more similar?

When I was 13 and finally legally allowed to see PG-13 movies, I was in love with this type of story. I am a hopeless romantic. But after three years of seeing the same movie time and time again, I find myself questioning whether these movies are worth the money.

The formula used to be perfect chick flick equals boy meets girl; boy screws up and loses girl; boy gets girl back. So, is this similarity all just part of the feminist movement? I doubt it. I just think that Hollywood professionals are lazy and can't come up with any new concepts. It's pretty pathetic that I can predict every major event of a movie before seeing it. I miss the reality of romantic films such as "Gone with the Wind," and "Casablanca," films in which relationships, as in life, don't always resolve themselves happily ever after.

Now, whenever I go see a chick flick, I have low standards. I expect the formula. I want to see the old timeless, unpredictable romantic classics. I don't want to sit in the theater and know exactly what is going to happen. I want Hollywood producers to make the love story more realistic. High school romances don't follow Hollywood clichés. I want something real, something I can feel for. Something like "Beauty and the Beast" or "Save the Last Dance." "Beauty and the Beast" and "Save the Last Dance" don't follow the formula either. Although the two people involved in the relationship do break up for awhile, it is no one's fault. I don't want another formula movie.

Don't change the channel

Wheter it's the newest disturbing reality show concept or the impending departure of a beloved series, each fall TV season seems to outhype the last. Here's a look at the latest reality show trend as well as the reality of obsessed fans' cancellation grief.

Plan a family reality night

By LeTonia Hardin
STAFF REPORTER

All those times you wished your parents were someone else must have finally gotten through to the minds of TV network executives because this year's crop of reality TV shows include two chances for married couples to exchange spouses.

ABC has created "Wife Swap," a show in which two families switch wives for 10 days. Fox shows two families exchanging a spouse in "Trading Spouses."

In "Wife Swap" two families switch wives for 10 days. For the first week the wife learns her new family's routine, and for the remainder of the time the wife gets to make up her own rules. Fox's "Trading Spouses" is the same as "Wife Swap," except the families can trade a husband or a wife.

Fox also airs "Renovate My Family," a show in which a family is completely made over with the help of a stylist. Their house is destroyed and rebuilt and an interior designer redecorates the inside.

"Take My Kids, Please!" a reality show on the Women's Entertainment Network, gives parents the opportunity to dump their kids on someone of their choosing. The parents get to go on a romantic, weekend vacation while the babysitter has to deal with the children.

Shaker's reaction to these kinds of reality shows range from "sexy" and "funny" to "degenerate" and "demeaning."

Students such as Kate Guess said appearing on a funky family reality show is not for them.

"It's an insult to my intelligence," the junior said.

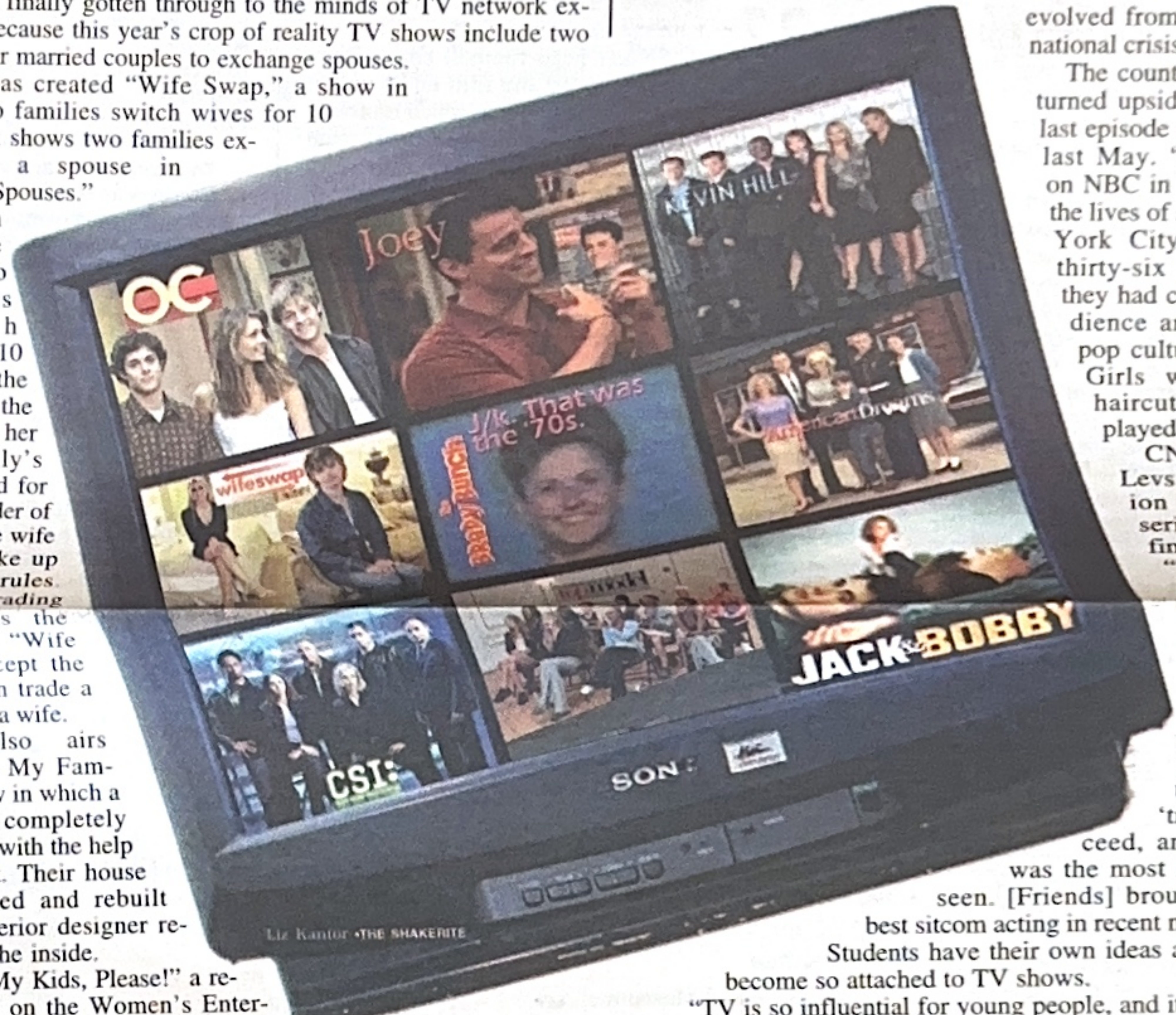
However, others would be eager to have the opportunity to be on a reality show and get a new parent.

"I think it would be fun. You would get to meet people and have a fun experience," sophomore Amanda Baringer said.

"It seems like [the people] have a good time," Span said.

Many of these shows take weird twists and turns during the two weeks of filming. The children could be put through hell because of the rules set by their new "parent."

"It's crazy. I'd have to go into therapy [if my parents did a switch]," sophomore Ben Karlin said.



Liz Kantor •THE SHAKERITE

Warning: Contains Spoilers

Smallville- Wed, 8 p.m., The WB

- In Oct. 27th's episode of "Smallville," Clark (Tom Welling) is lured into Lionel Luthor's (John Glover) jail cell. Clark sees Lionel attempting to kill Lex. Lionel and Clark switch bodies and Clark is left powerless and in jail.

Alias- Sun, 9 p.m., ABC

- Sydney gets a new boss and a new partner.
- When Sydney loses someone close to her, her work is affected.
- She will also get fired early in the season.

Compiled by Adrian McLaughlin

Dealing when 'Friends' leave

By Allison Scharfstein
STAFF REPORTER

Few things other than news broadcasts can unite 50.1 million TV viewers in grief.

Few things except, of course, beloved sitcoms.

In recent years, reactions to the disappearance of TV shows from network schedules have evolved from a non-event to a national crisis.

The country was practically turned upside-down when the last episode of "Friends" aired last May. "Friends" started on NBC in 1994. It followed the lives of six friends in New York City. Two-hundred-thirty-six episodes later, they had created a huge audience and a multimedia pop culture phenomenon. Girls wanted Rachel's haircut. Radio stations played the theme song.

CNN reporter Jan Levs released an opinion piece about the series soon after the final show. He said, "The truth is, 'Friends' has given us some of the purest TV drama of the past decade. Ross and Rachel coming together spoke to that part of all of us that roots for 'true love' to succeed, and their breakup was the most realistic I'd ever seen. [Friends] brought some of the best sitcom acting in recent memory."

Students have their own ideas about why people become so attached to TV shows.

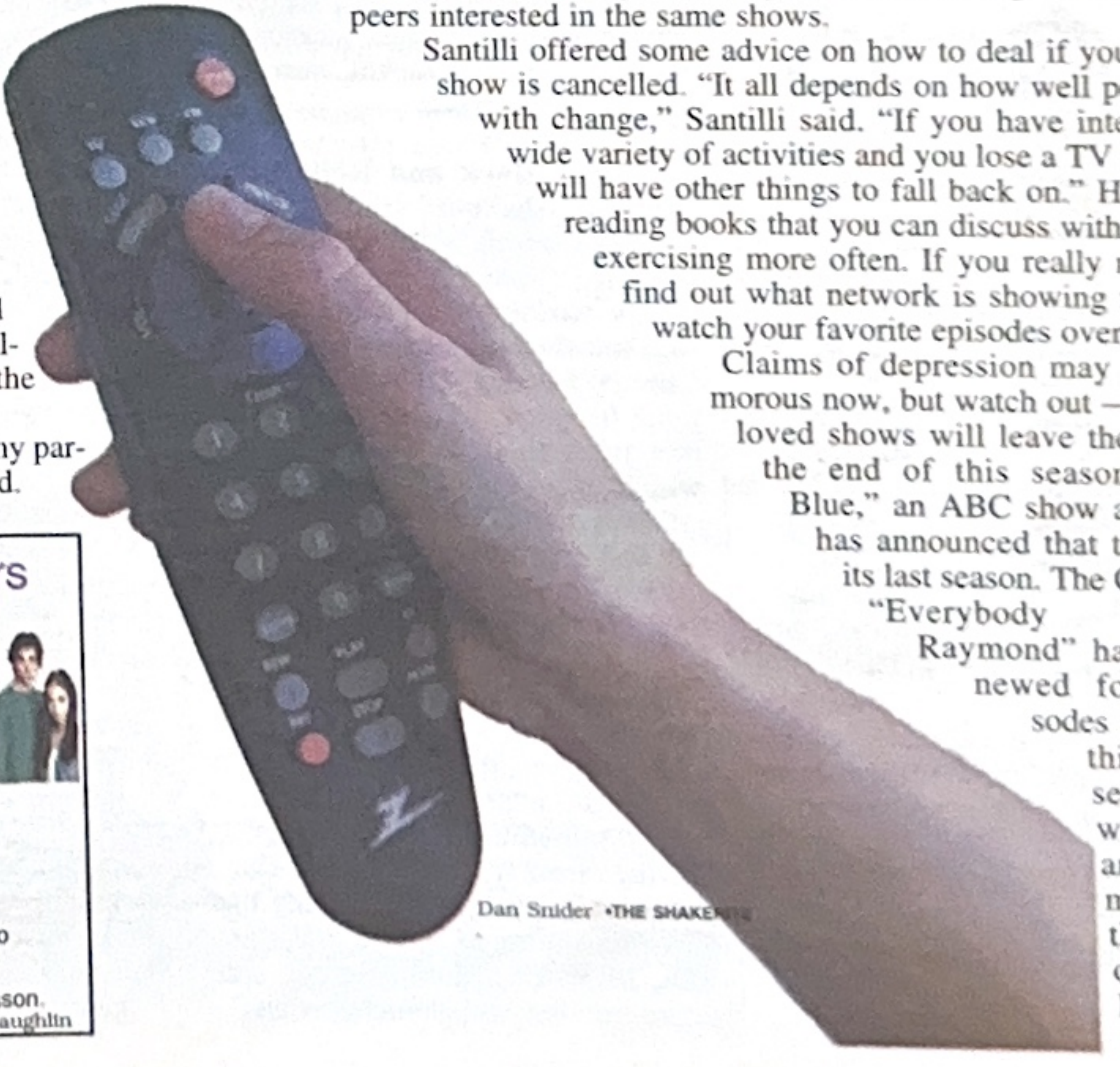
"TV is so influential for young people, and it influences styles and stuff like that," senior Aaron Stephens said.

According to freshman Erica Payne, students watch TV "because [it's] more exciting than real life."

Nicholas Santilli is a psychology professor at John Carroll University. He said that the attachment to TV shows has a more complex explanation, as TV is such a huge part of pop culture. Teens talk about the twists and turns of their favorite show with their friends as if they are breaking news. Because friendships are built on similar interests, youth today could be forming friendships with peers interested in the same shows.

Santilli offered some advice on how to deal if your favorite show is cancelled. "It all depends on how well people deal with change," Santilli said. "If you have interests in a wide variety of activities and you lose a TV show, you will have other things to fall back on." He suggests reading books that you can discuss with friends or exercising more often. If you really need a fix, find out what network is showing reruns and watch your favorite episodes over and over.

Claims of depression may sound humorous now, but watch out — some beloved shows will leave the screen at the end of this season. "NYPD Blue," an ABC show about cops, has announced that this will be its last season. The CBS sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond" has been renewed for 16 episodes and making this its final season as well. There are also rumors that this season of "7th Heaven" will be its last.



Dan Snider •THE SHAKERITE

Music rocks our vote

Lately, it seems like every time I turn on a TV or radio, brash political messages bombard my existence.

I fully understand their purpose, which is to gain an edge in the race toward Election Day, but I wonder: Is a TV commercial or clip on the radio going to motivate *youth* to decide who should run our country? I realize that although increasingly more adolescents are becoming aware of world affairs and where the United States stands in relation, still too many remain clueless.

Lauren Alexander
Guest 'Riter

No doubt TV is a medium that can reach millions upon millions of people with ease, but this issue isn't quantitative. An important question that should be asked is *to what degree* do these TV commercials and radio clips influence you? Not to downplay the importance of these media as strong tools, but I think one area of the spectrum is overlooked: music.

If there is one thing that almost all teenagers enjoy, it's music. Although tastes span a wide range of genres, the powerful influence of music cannot be denied. Looking across all borders at hip-hop, rap, alternative, grunge, punk and pop, political messages are infused into almost every genre. Music can present politics in a more appealing and easily understandable way to adolescents, which motivates them to become more involved in political processes.

> Music can present politics in a more appealing and easily understandable way to adolescents, which motivates them to become more involved in political processes.

Daily, we listen to music that sways us emotionally in all directions. Whether it's the beat or rhythm of a song or the emotional lyrics belted out during the chorus, music touches us all in a way that nothing else can.

Taking advantage of this power, many artists use music as a platform to voice opinions and ideas they feel are relevant to society and politics. Artists ranging from Public Enemy to John Lennon to Green Day, whose recent album "American Idiot" debuted at No. 1, have grabbed the attention of many music consumers and turned them on to specific political concepts.

On Oct. 10, the Vote for Change tour wrapped up with its final show in Miami. Bruce Springsteen, Pearl Jam, Dave Matthews, Jack Johnson and Babyface, just to name a few, were on the bill and adamantly supported MoveOn, an organization that encourages people to vote Democratic.

Many people put musicians on a pedestal and hold their ideals as high standards, so it's important that artists are aware of this and don't abuse the power they hold over their fans. In the end, your decision and your vote that matter on Nov. 2.

Shaker's Friday nights more realistic

> "The community plays less of a role in Shaker. Most of the pressure is brought on yourself; you don't want to let your teammates down."
>
> Robbie Woodcock
> senior

> "School should be most important, then the players' personal lives, then sports."
>
> Dave Sedmak
> football coach

By Allen Eckhouse
STAFF REPORTER

Some people watch football every Sunday, relaxing with a drink in one hand and remote in the other. Some play their hearts out for school teams. Some take it a step too far.

Odessa, Texas, whose citizens' universe revolves around the pigskin, embodies that extreme idealism.

The film "Friday Night Lights" recounts the story of the Permian Panthers' journey to the 1988 high school football championship. Billy Bob Thornton, as Coach Gary Gaines, pushes his players to go the extra mile. As if the game weren't enough, players battle with their families, teammates, townspeople, and themselves. They play through injuries and personal problems just to appease people. Is this behavior too extreme for young men?

Shaker head football coach Dave Sedmak found the film entertaining, but "the situation was much more extreme there." He and the varsity team attended a free screening of the film at Shaker Square Cinemas. Sedmak believes Shaker maintains perspective between sports and education. "School should be most important, then the players' personal lives, then sports," said Sedmak, "but there should be a balance . . . Players shouldn't limit themselves on extracurricular activities, but shouldn't focus only on sports." In Shaker, "most of the pressure is self-imposed. Very little comes from the outside," he said.

Senior Free Safety Robbie Woodcock agrees. "I really liked the movie, especially the gameplay scenes," Woodcock said. However, he thinks Shaker is different. "The community plays less of a role in Shaker. Most of the pressure is brought on yourself; you don't want to let your teammates down," he said.

Woodcock believes school is most important because "it is senior year and college is coming up." He would like to play football in college, but sports aren't a deciding factor. When asked if he enjoys playing the game, Woodcock puts it simply: "I love it."

Football might be the last school sport some athletes ever play, so the desire to form memories is strong. Sedmak wants his players to "learn to overcome adversity, to sacrifice personal glory from the group." Woodcock said the "family attitude" found in a team is invaluable.

Odessa, Texas is a tackle using the same old play because it works. *Shaker is a quarterback pulling off big plays. Although Odessa is devoted to the extreme, Shaker maintains priorities, making it a great environment for its dedicated athletes.*

'Lights' best seen on the page

By Allen Eckhouse
STAFF REPORTER

The Permian Panthers and Coach Gary Gaines represent the heart and soul of Odessa, Texas.

The town itself comprises overbearing and overzealous high school football fans with one-track minds focused on winning. On their journey to high school glory, Coach Gaines and players, including Boobie Miles (Luke) and Don Billingsly (Hedlund), deal with their personal lives, the lives of their overseers, and the opposing teams.

Thornton cashes in another great performance as Gaines, bringing the strong-willed, father-like coach to life.

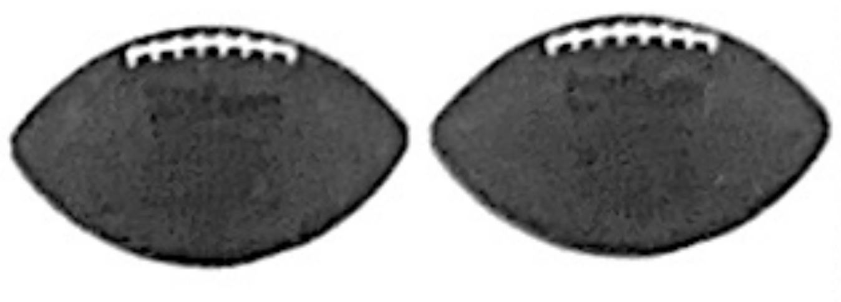
However, the supporting cast does not pull its own weight. Country singer Tim McGraw makes his acting debut but does not stabilize his character. Although the film is billed as a "guts and glory, blood and sweat sports movie," it comes across as too theatrical (not every tackle in a football game is a clothesline or an over-the-shoulder body drop).

Also, the film only deals with two aspects of the players' lives: football and parents. They are called high school football players for a reason: They are in high school! There is very little about what the players deal with in school, which could have opened up a whole other dimension for the film.

Final recommendation: read the book. "Friday Night Lights" by H.G. Bissinger, first published in 1990. Starting price at $15.95 for a paperback edition.

"Friday Night Lights"

Directed By: Peter Berg



Out of four footballs

Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Derek Luke, Garrett Hedlund

'Museum' not always a dirty word

• Three top-notch Cleveland museums host music and artwork

By Hazel Rigby
STAFF REPORTER

1. The Cleveland Museum of Art

Famous to obscure, ancient to modern—everything's free, so what's your excuse for not going? Particularly fascinating is the current exhibition "Needful Things: Recent Multiples" (open until Jan. 2, 2005). The exhibit displays contemporary art that has been produced in sets. The museum's permanent collection of twentieth century art, which includes work by masters Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol, surrounds this exciting exhibit.

2. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

Admission is $20, but it's a worthy price to pay for access to a piece of Otis Redding's plane, the bass being smashed on the cover of The Clash's "London Calling," and everything between. The current theme of the museum is music from Ohio, which encompasses wildly varying artists such as Devo, the Isley Brothers and countless others. Visit now for a glimpse of some spectacular Supremes outfits.

3. The Museum of Contemporary Art

For anyone already well-versed in art's past, here is a museum that brings something new to the table. Having been the first to introduce Cleveland to the then-emerging and now-famous artists of the 1950s and '60s, MOCA's exhibitions continue to present new and challenging art.

By Laura Chernin
ARTS EDITOR

To some, they are just field trip destinations— free tickets out of class. To others, they are fascinating places well worth visiting.

Museums might not be your favorite hangout, but many students find visits very rewarding.

"I wish I could go more often," senior Steve Katz said. However, Katz said he understands that "to some people it's just not interesting," especially when museum trips are required rather than requested.

Senior Faith Gobidas visits galleries regularly, and she also enjoys going to Tremont for The Tremont Art Walks for an alternative art display. Once a month, artists sell their work on the streets of the West side neighborhood as visitors from all over Northeast Ohio come to view the art and enjoy dinner. Gobidas describes "intricate pieces of pottery," homemade glass and even enamel chicken-feet. "You find some crazy art here," said Gobidas, "[by] some amazing artists here that really aren't well known."

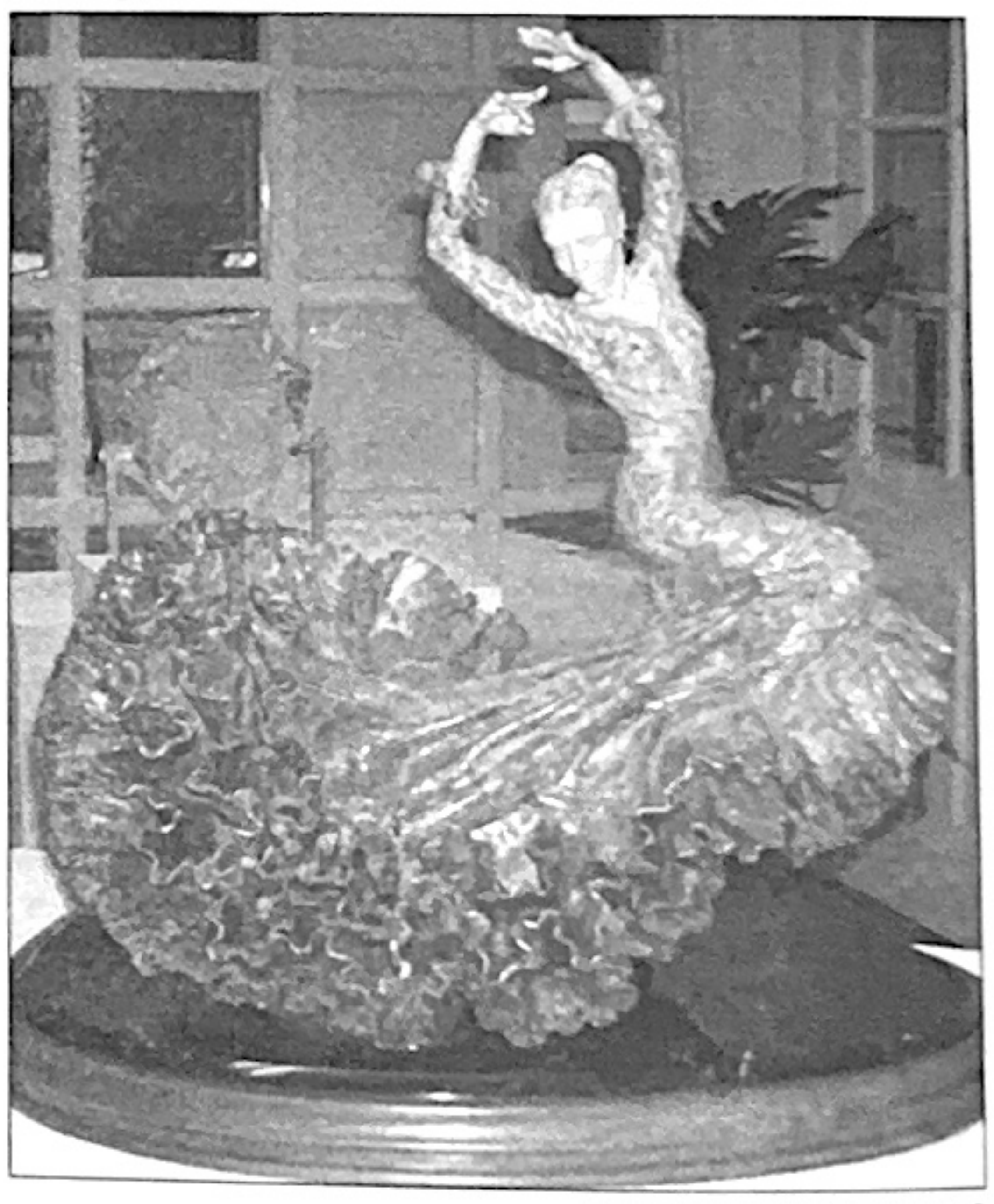
This is opposite of the world-renowned names on display at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Katz, Gobidas and senior Elle Kibbe agree that The Cleveland Museum of Art offers the variety of art styles they crave. After recently visiting the Canton Art Museum, which Kibbe said was "very small," she did not take the Cleveland museum for granted, adding that it "makes me appreciate the [Cleveland] art museum more."

The Cleveland museum's displays impresses Gobidas so much that she says the museum should be bigger. Kibbe enjoys the grand scale of the Cleveland museum. "The presentation at the Cleveland Art Museum makes a difference."

Not everyone believes strolling through galleries is a fun way to spend the weekend. "I really don't think people are turned on by the word 'museum,'" Gobidas said. Yet students are forgetting that visiting galleries doesn't cost a penny. "I view it as free entertainment," Gobidas said.

Katz believes the Cleveland Museum can make some improvements to attract a larger student audience by offering "types of art that are more closely related to pop culture."

Whether a day trip to an art gallery is on your agenda or not, a world-renown museum always lies right at your fingertips. "The Cleveland art museum is one of the best in the country," Kibbe said.



Hilry Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE

NEWLY DISPLAYED ART by Shirley McWorter-Moss at the Malcolm Brown Gallery at 20100 Chagrin Blvd. features many pieces, including this flamenco dancer sculpture titled "Bata de Cola." Her exhibition will be at the gallery from Oct. 22-Nov.20.

COMING SOON
TO PULSE PAGES
NEAR YOU . . .

Horoscopes
SCORPIO
October 21 - November 23
Halloween trick or treating may not be so much about the candy this year. You are looking for a sweeter treat from a special new hottie, and this time around it just might happen.

AND . . .

Heard in the Halls
Overheard and out of context

Housework harder than homework

SARAH BRANDON
CENTERPIECE CO-EDITOR

Blonde hair isn't the only thing Jessica Simpson and I have in common. We also share our degree of domestic knowledge—none.

It was Mother's Day when the catastrophe of the year hit my house full force. In past years I had done little things, like make her a card, or buy her some flowers, but this I was 14 and year I wanted to do something extravagant. I decided to do my mother's "dirty work," the work my entire family hated to do. I woke up early to start my work for the day. I imagined making her a beautiful, delicious breakfast. I started cooking the eggs, which as I saw the hardest part to do. I was being daring, seeing as I had never cooked before. I put the eggs on the pan and watched in anticipation. The eggs started crackling and the insides began to spill out all over the place. I thought this was normal so I left the room happy. Five minutes later my stove was on fire. I raced into the room, just to see black smoke all over the kitchen. The pan blew up in flames and the eggs blazed into a small pile of black soot. Panicking, I took the water hose from the sink and sprayed the fire with it.

Fortunately firefighter Sarah came to the rescue of domestic Sarah and put that fire out really fast. Somehow my superhero efforts were enough to stop the blaze, and I was lucky enough to avoid standing in the smoldering ruins of our house.

The next thing on my list was to do the laundry. Again, I had never attempted doing the laundry before. But that didn't stop me from washing my mother's new black suit and all her jeans. I put the clothes in the washing machine, put some random soap in it and pressed start. I was really excited that I did something right for the first time.

But it was almost too easy.

I went into my room to finish my mom's Mother's Day card. I was so pumped that I couldn't sit still, so I went to check on her clothes. I opened the washer lid, and to my surprise, the clothes were all white! I had accidentally used bleach instead of detergent. I never knew that there was a difference between the two; they were both just soap to me.

By now I was convinced I was Amelia Bedelia. I gave up and picked some flowers for my mom, just like every other year.

Now, two years older and somewhat domestically smarter, I know the three rules of "dirty work." The first and most important rule is to ask before doing anything, even if I think I know how to do it. Number two, which is seriously so embarrassing, is not to try to clean anything without supervision. And number three is not to go anywhere close to any appliance that can cause a fire.

Thinking of college gets me wicked scared because I know my mom won't be there to help me pick up. I am really not too spoiled or prissy to do the "dirty work;" I honestly just can't do it.

If you're like Jessica Simpson and me, don't be embarrassed by your domestic issues. It just goes to show not every woman can grow up to be a housewife.

Council members must rise and shine - or else

Martina Alessandrini
STAFF REPORTER

It's hard enough to get to first period on time, let alone start you day an hour earlier.

But in an attempt to combat poor meeting attendance, Student Council has adopted a new policy that officers hope will make members take their duties more seriously.

"They adopted this solution because the people in the Student Council are there to represent their classes, and how can they represent them if they don't show up to the meetings?" Student Council President Amy Silver asked.

The policy states that if a member is absent for three full council meetings, or six committee and class meetings, he is dismissed. The council meets before school.

"Being part of the Student Council is a responsibility; you are working for the school, for the student body that elected you. We can't allow people not to come to the meetings," Silver said.

Junior class president Emily George thinks the policy improves attendance.

"I think that the policy is very strict, but things are actually starting to work a lot faster. We get things done sooner," she said, adding that in past years people did not take Student Council seriously.

"This policy is giving improvements. We're doing better things, especially if you compare this situation to the one in my freshmen year."

Students are expecting faster and more organized activities.

"I expect them to show up and to do their duty as Student Council members," freshman Brian Corrigan said.

Sophomore Alena Kelly questioned why people wished to represent the their class but not attend meetings.

Kenneth Dabney, a junior, hopes to see improvements, although he is less concerned with the environment.

"I also would like them to raise money to buy new sports equipment," he said.

Many students think Student Council is not effective and sometimes the members get involved just to gain popularity.

"They should be more dedicated to their job," junior Emily Kaplan said.

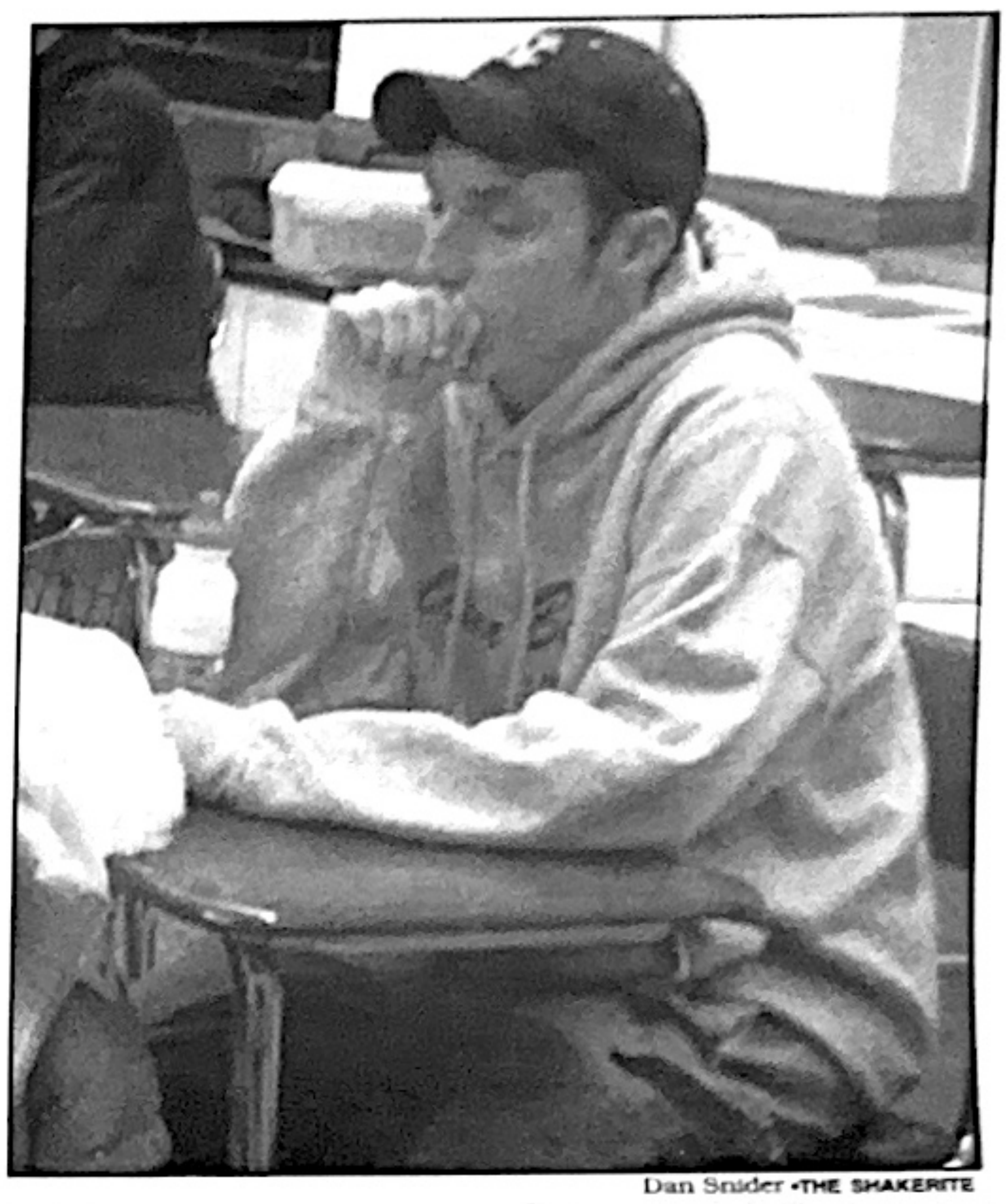
In response, Silver said people do not realize how hard members try to make changes. Student Council will sponsor two new events: Shaker Carnival in autumn and Shaker Madness in late winter. Silver can't give many specifics yet.

"They are two new happenings, so we can't give details about them. The only one thing I can say is that we are working hard on them, and that it will be a lot of fun," she said.

Other activities planned focus on raising school spirit and organizing more spirit days. Members are working on new charity programs including fundraisers that will support Cleveland associations.

"There should be better communication," Silver said of the policy. "Finally things are starting to work a lot better. We expect to do a good job."

> "Being part of the Student Council is a responsibility, you are working for the school, for the student body that elected you."
>
> Amy Silver
> Student Council President


Dan Snider •THE SHAKERITE

SENIOR STUDENT COUNCIL member Casey Reese appears sleepy at a *Student Council meeting before school. The council has adopted stricter attendance policies this year.*

Calling up the vote, even if they can't

• Students pitch in at Bush, Kerry campaign offices

Carrie Reese
STAFF REPORTER

Some Shaker students are so eager to get involved in the presidential race that they volunteer to call total strangers on the phone.

Supporters of both candidates participated in phone banks. "[Phone banking] is when you get a list of people and you call them and you find out to see who they support and you try to give them info," explained sophomore Erin Campbell, who called voters from the Kerry campaign office on Shaker Square. "If they're undecided, then you tell them the arguments that Kerry has against Bush. If they're in strong support of Kerry, you ask them if they want to volunteer. Then you ask them if they need a ride to the polls or an absentee ballot."

The Kerry Edwards campaign office has been buzzing with activity.

"It was kind of sparse, but definitely full of energy," sophomore Sarah Sy said of the headquarters.

Senior Julie Broadbent spent time at the Bush campaign office at the corner of Warrensville Center and Cedar roads. "I was only one of, like, two high school students there. The people are really nice," she said.

Even though most students are not eligible to vote, many are trying to sway voters to their side.

The Kerry-Edwards website, www.johnkerry.com, lists volunteer options such as recruiting volunteers, contacting media sources, finding online donors, giving online donations, or hosting a party. Campbell said most people were polite. "If I called and they were a Bush supporter they were just like, 'I support Bush,' but nobody was really mean about it."

A few people were rude, though. "One guy hung up on me because his name was printed wrong on my list. It said Bon when it was really Ben," Campbell said.

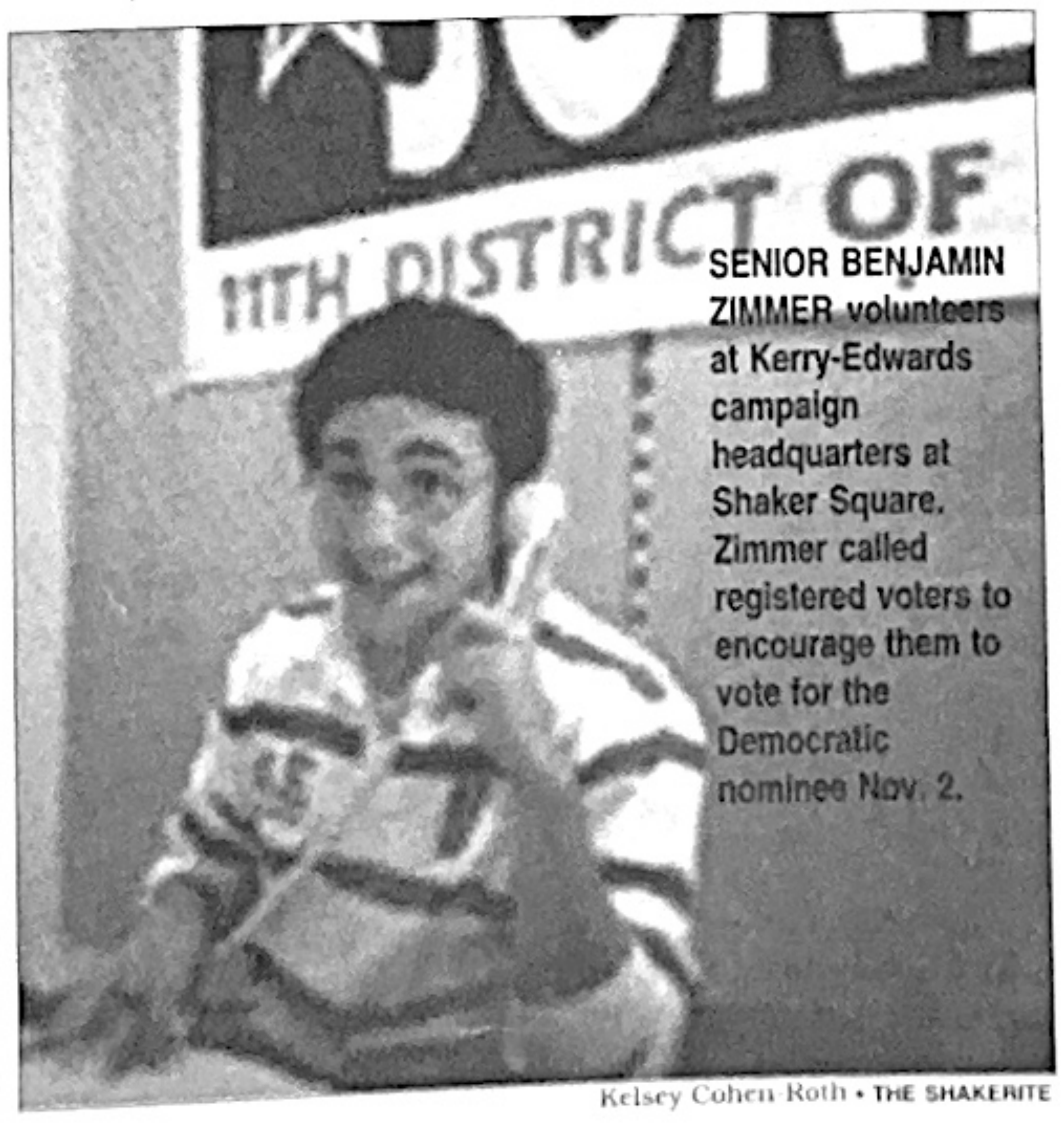
Broadbent has several reasons for helping out "We needed hours for government, I'm a social republican, and also it was close to my house," said Broadbent, a senior.

Broadbent enjoyed her experience. "I met a lot of cool people there," she said, adding that the atmosphere was political but fun.

The Bush-Cheney campaign website www.georgewbush.com, offers many volunteer options, too. There is an Ohio 72 volunteer signup, where you can register online for phone bank or go door to door in the last 72 hours before the election. Other suggested activities include organizing a neighborhood walk, setting up a party for the president, forwarding e-mails to friends or recruiting more phone volunteers.

Students who are enthusiastic about their campaign choices volunteered because they truly wanted to help. "I volunteered because Kerry needs all the help he can get," sophomore Lesley Ray said. "I think it is good that kids are volunteering for candidates, because even though they can't vote, they are trying to make a difference."

> ". . . even though they can't vote, they are trying to make a difference."
>
> Leslie Ray
> sophomore



SENIOR BENJAMIN ZIMMER volunteers at Kerry-Edwards campaign headquarters at Shaker Square. Zimmer called registered voters to encourage them to vote for the Democratic nominee Nov. 2.

Kelsey Cohen-Roth • THE SHAKERITE

YES IT'S TRUE SHAKER HAS A CURFEW

"It's 10:30. Do you know where your children are?" This question echoed across Chicago airwaves decades ago. The reverberation of the familiar phrase reminded parents that anyone younger than 18 was supposed to be at home respecting the city's curfew. Parents, students and law enforcement officials still argue over this concept today.

Leah Hitchens and Miriam Moore
PULSE EDITORS

Students' Rights

Sorry, freshmen. If you haven't turned 15 yet, you'd better be at home and in bed by 11 p.m., or the city of Shaker Heights is going to get you. Oh, and upperclassmen, you only have until 1 a.m.

Shaker expects teenagers to be home by these hours. While many cities use curfew to reduce juvenile crime, Shaker Police Chief Walter Ugrinic said Shaker's law is in place to protect teens.

The law places responsibility on parents, not minors. It states, "No parent shall allow their child . . . " But that doesn't mean minors won't be in trouble if they get caught. A juvenile can be arrested and might have to appear in court.

Curfew laws have been a controversial issue for years. The American Civil Liberties Union has been a significant leader in the movement to end curfew laws for minors across the nation because it feels curfew is a violation of the First Amendment, the right to freedom of movement and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

ACLU
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Several Shaker students think that the city has no right to tell them how late they can stay outside. Junior Jasmine Adams, whose parents enforce an 11 p.m. curfew on weekdays and 1 a.m. on weekends, doesn't believe that the city has any right to make a curfew.

"I think that people's parents should make the curfew, not the city. It depends on how responsible each child is. The city should not have control," she said.

Parents' Views

Cooper White wasn't too pleased two years ago when the police brought home his son, then 15 years old, who was riding his bike around town with some friends. He was even less pleased that it happened at around 3 a.m.

"Curfews are a good idea. There's usually very little teenagers can or should be doing after that late anyway," said White, father of senior Alex White.

Parents of Shaker students tend to side with the police regarding the curfew controversy; they conclude that if teenagers' parents can't handle the responsibility, police are taking the appropriate action by stepping in.

Murphy Ball, father of junior Koya Ball, believes that some parents "aren't aware of [city] curfew, especially during the summer." However, all of the parents interviewed agreed that curfew is a positive aspect in the community. Ball included that he supports police escorting the violator back to his or her house.

Ball added that it is not always teens' actions that cause curfews to be implemented.

"They can run into problems just by association. There are a lot of violations once police find out where [kids] are going," he said, referring to an incident when he was coming home from work one night and saw police stopping a group of kids on the street.

Both White and Ball have set household curfews for their children that mirror the city's.

Police Options

The curfew isn't some plan by the city to stop evil teenagers' crimes.

Chief of Police Walter Ugrinic said that the city curfew, enacted in 1968, is in place "for the safety of the child."

He said that for a first-time offender, the minor might just be given a "caution." He might also be required to attend a "diversion program," which Ugrinic did not specifically define. The violation would then be wiped off the record after one year.

If minors are caught out late again, they will probably be taken to the police station and their parents will have to come and get them.

If minors continue to violate the curfew law, they will have to go to the county juvenile court, where a judge would decide their punishment.

The city believes that parents are also culpable if their children break curfew. If the minor is caught out past curfew and doing something that could endanger his health, his parents can be charged with child endangerment.

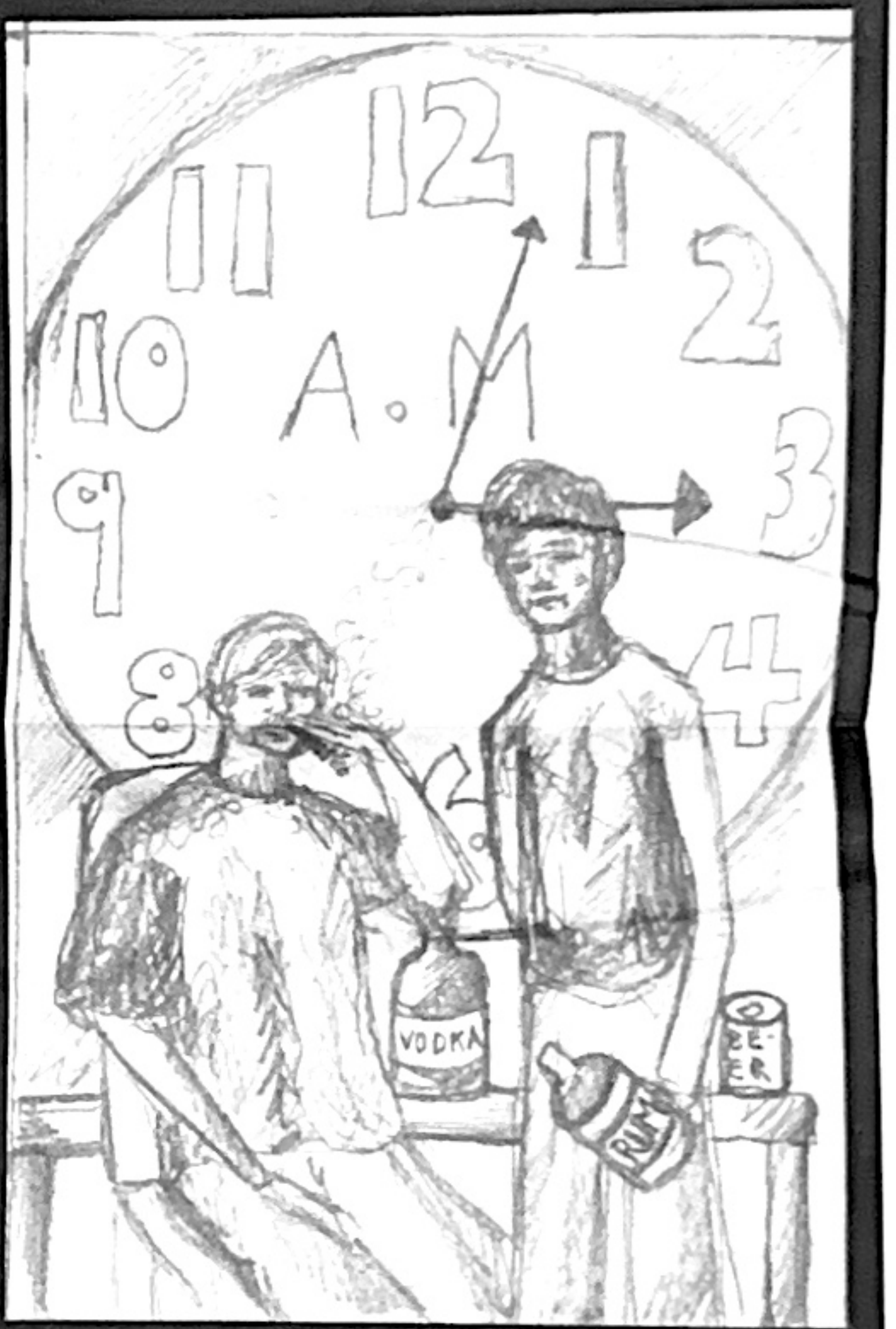
According to Ugrinic, most minors follow the curfew law.

He added that curfew violation is not a significant problem in Shaker.

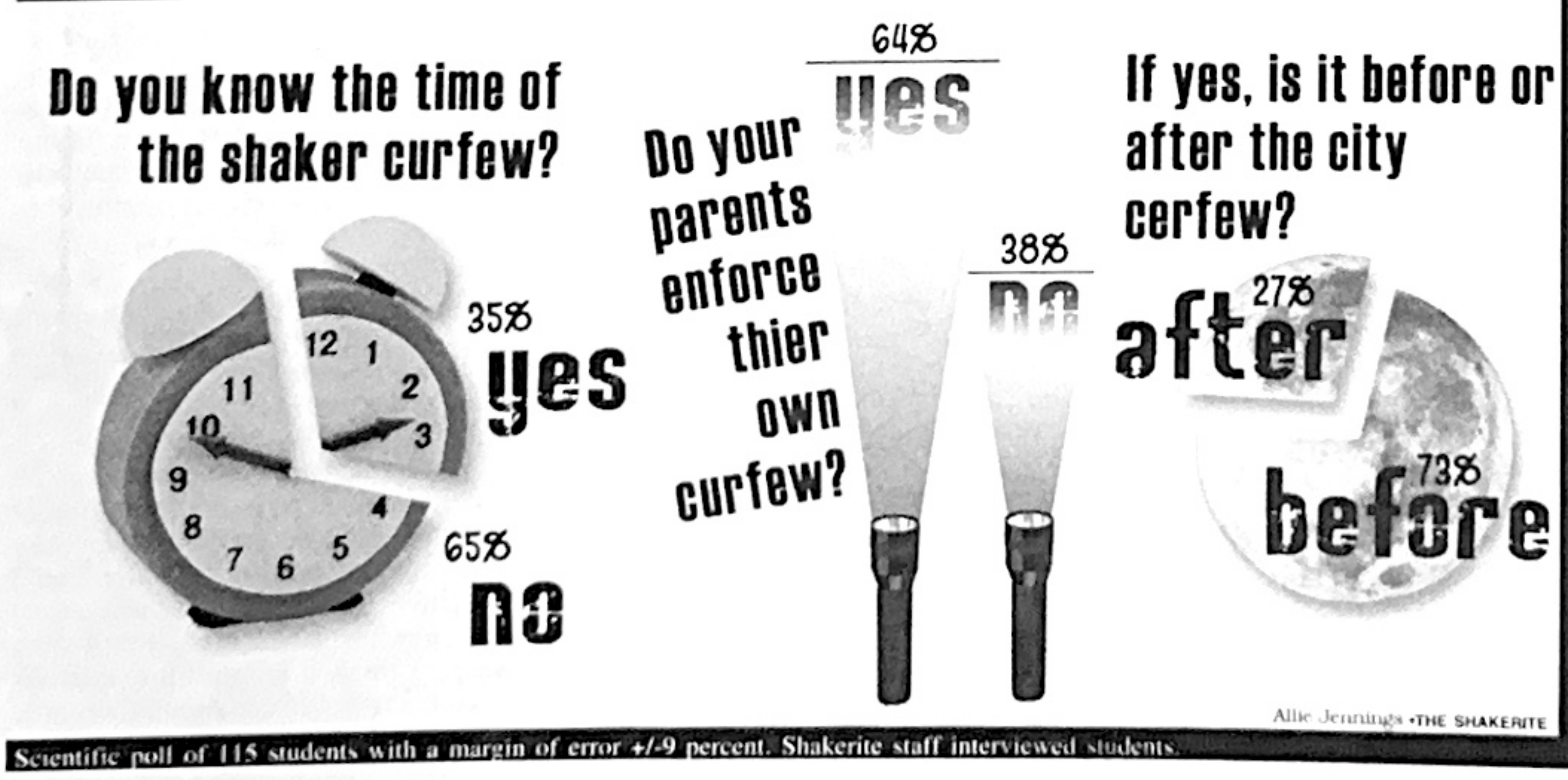
Ugrinic also said crimes committed at night are often not perpetrated by Shaker minors, but by those from other cities.

The curfew hasn't changed in Shaker since 1980. Although many students feel that the right to set a curfew belongs to parents, Urginic feels that not all parents are responsible enough to make those decisions.

"The city has an obligation to protect its citizens," he said.



Amy Silver •THE SHAKERITE



Allie Jennings •THE SHAKERITE

Scientific poll of 115 students with a margin of error +/-9 percent. Shakerite staff interviewed students.

Curfew violation leads to conflict

Leah Hitchens
PULSE EDITOR

For Shaker senior James Quarles, police enforcement of curfew laws and the use of force intersected Sept. 26. A typical night turned into a conflict when the Shaker Heights police got involved.

According to James, he emerged from his house around 3 a.m., walked across the front yard and began hitting a tree to vent his frustration about something. His friends came out to check on him when a police car drove by and stopped in front of the house. James said that's when the officer began to hassle them.

James Quarles

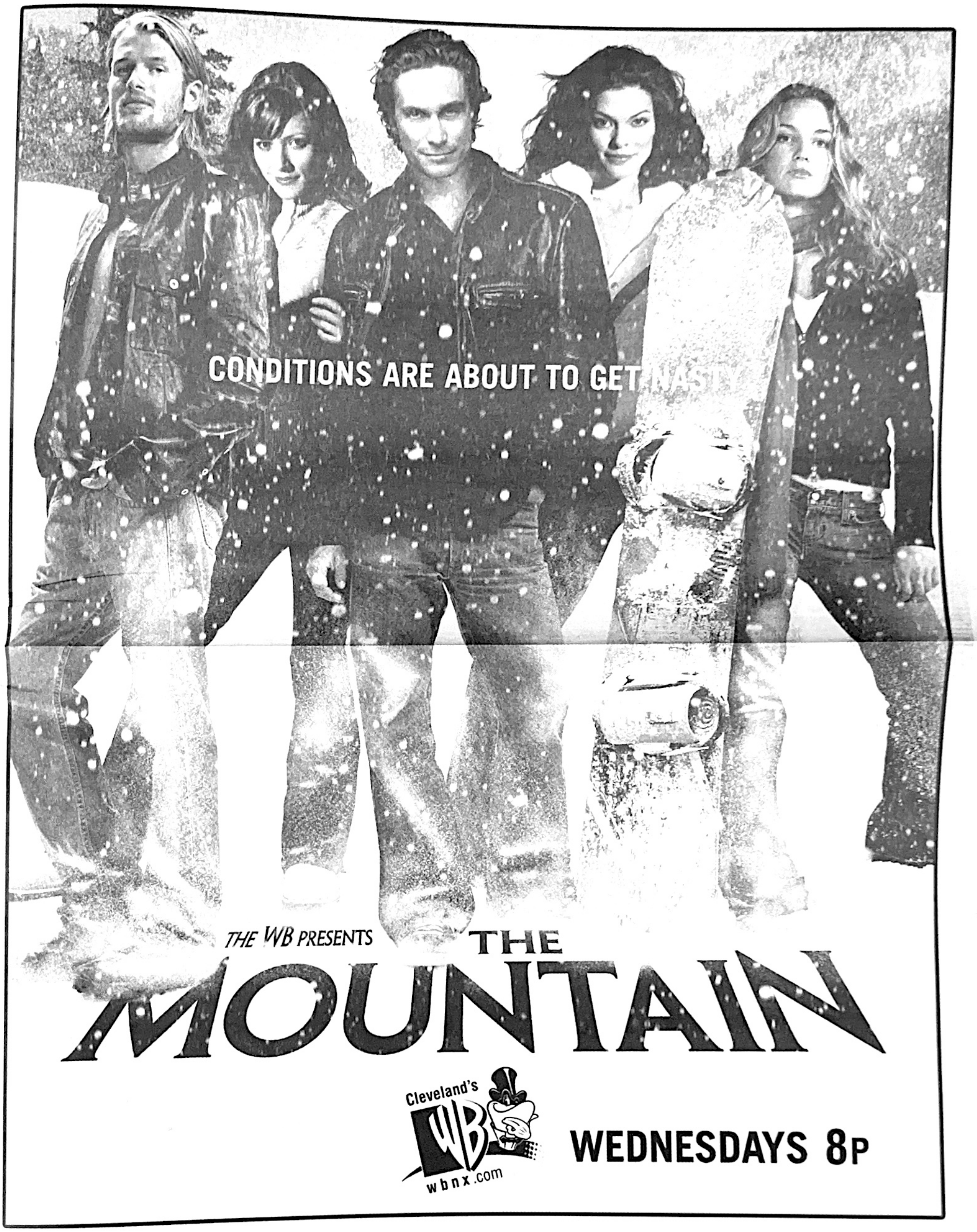
"My brother [Josiah] came out of the house from one way, and I went in another [way], so we missed each other. He came out with his hands up; he wasn't sure what was happening," James said, adding that he doesn't think being in his yard at that time should have been a big deal.

James said police officer Parker Adriane became defensive when he thought 23-year-old Josiah was threatening him.

"It was more of an issue of excessive force," he said.

Police did not return calls seeking comment.

Quarles' mother, Deborah said she thinks the situation could have been a time for community policing, but instead, the matter got out of hand.


CONDITIONS ARE ABOUT TO GET NASTY
THE WB PRESENTS
THE MOUNTAIN
Cleveland's WB
wbnx.com
WEDNESDAYS 8P

TAKE A RISK

The Dangerous Sports Club claims to have innovated bungee jumping. With a wheelchair as its emblem, the worldwide club has held more than 80 projects in 40 countries since at least 1981, from playing a baby grand piano as it races down an Alpine slope to sprinting along a bar-top and diving into an ice-filled trashcan. And you thought *Halloween* was scary.

www.btinternet.com

Striving beneath the radar

MEAGAN STEINER
SPORTS EDITOR

Ah, the glory of it all. Pouring your mind, body and soul into practice after muscle-searing, mind-crushing practice in anticipation of your next competition, your next chance to strive and prove your merit in front of coaches and a handful of parents. An event of such magnitude that, when relayed to your classmates, it will be met with astonishment that what you do is a sport.

And let's face it: Despite the occasional frustrations, toiling in oblivion packs its own peculiar form of glory. That's just the way some sports are meant to be, especially at the high school level.

Junior fencer Steve Cabrera has met individuals oblivious to the existence of a fencing team and wishes people knew about the nature of the sport, that "it's not just a game. It's real. And it's not some reenactment of something."

Though sophomore golfer Kathryn Berry is frustrated by having players' parents as the team's only supporters, she noted that in golf, athletes can be satisfied with playing their best, regardless of who won. Though lack of support from the school is disappointing, unnoticed success brings no added pressure to repeat. The same goes for a lack of fans at tournaments.

"It's sorta positive because really a lot of crowds can cause a lot of pressure . . . but sometimes you really need that pressure to succeed," Berry said.

I have been fortunate enough in crew, my own under-recognized, under-appreciated sport, never to suffer a dearth of pressure. Being surrounded by three or seven teammates pushing through the same hell as I and listening to a coxswain roar for more power are reminders enough that I can't let them down. The one thing I wish the world knew about crew? The seats slide. Thus, we use our legs far more than our arms, creating an excruciating, full-body workout repeated several hundred times every practice, three seasons a year. The slogan, "You'll pass out before you die, so row harder" isn't an abstract philosophy.

As for lack of support, we are in the same boat (no pun intended—maybe) with other largely unrecognized athletes. Thus, our team bonds over this situation as we do over our jokes about the foul conditions of the Cuyahoga River; they are inevitable truths better laughed at than mourned. Athletes in other unrecognized sports echoed this sentiment.

Success becomes a means to earn acknowledgement and respect for your sport. We must add to the equation that winning equals a potential spot on the morning announcements (and when a 15-second blurb at the end of second period is your primary source of publicity, you know you're desperate).

But in the end, we don't care about the glory. As junior diver Benjamin Oakley, who said his team is perceived as "a sideline to the swim team," noted, we don't do this because of what other people think. We do this because we want to.

CC coach Richard battles cancer

DAVID O'CONNELL
SPORTS EDITOR

Head cross country coach Charles Richard has been diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer. His condition was revealed during the summer.

"We were all stunned when we heard the news," assistant track coach Henry Woodard said.

The Lake Erie League cross-country championship was renamed The Charles Richard LEL Cross-Country Championship due to his illness and dedication to the sport. The team came to his house to inform him of the honor.

"It shows the appreciation people have for him. He's coached over 30 years, [and he] always gave 100 percent at coaching," Woodard said. The team finished fourth out of the six big school divisions at the championship.

Richard

Richard's sickness has not kept him from attending Shaker's cross-country meets and practices. Woodard said Richard comes to practices when he can and is at checkups when he can't.

Sophomore cross-country runner John Gregg appreciates his coach's dedication. "He still comes to our meets, but he isn't well enough to coach us," Gregg said. "He's a really cool guy and he's been a good coach to us."

Richard has stepped down from coaching full-time.

"I feel like I interfere with the team," Richard said. "They're doing quite well."

Roderick Macleod has taken over for Richard as head coach.

"I'm excited doing it, but I wish it hadn't come about the way it did," Macleod said.

Richard's daughter, Adrienne Richard, said her father is in good spirits.

> "He's a really cool guy and he's been a good coach to us."
>
> John Gregg
> sophomore
> cross-country runner

HAWKING HAWKEN

Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

SENIOR DEFENDER CLARE Malone jabs the ball away from a Hawken player during the Shaker-Hawken field hockey game Oct. 22. *The Raiders defeated the Hawks 4-1 to advance to the* second round of state qualifying games. "The whole team's really excited," senior defender Michaela McDermott said. "Things are looking up for us."

Play by the rules

•Athletes, teams can suffer from individuals' misconduct

FROM **BEHAVIOR**PAGE 1

was positive. "[The event caused us] to focus more on the team," Eppich said.

Athletes are expected to follow the Shaker Heights High School Athletic Code and rules set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The code lays out the requirements for eligibility and violations and penalties. Athletic Director Susan Brown summed it up as requiring athletes to conduct themselves in a respectful manner.

Many athletes are not aware of the code. According to senior Yotam Guggenheim, a three-year soccer team member, his team was not given a lecture on the athletic code.

Eligibility requires a 2.0 GPA and five core classes that earn 2.5 credits.

Specific penalties exist for alcohol and drug abuse violations. A first-time offender cannot participate in practices or games for two weeks, and a parent must verify that the student is receiving counseling. After a second offense, the athlete may not participate in all sports for the rest of the year.

Senior football team member Bryant Guilford said coaches discussed the athletic code with them at preseason. "We were told about the rules and regulations and the policies involving drug use," Guilford said. "You can get kicked off the team or suspended for violating the rules."

According to Brown, substance abuse violations are "not that frequent."

"I did hear a rumor that a team was drinking and I confronted the team," Brown said.

The code also states that an athlete will be ineligible if he or she accumulates five unexcused absences in a class.

Brown said the absence policy is probably the least enforced, noting that it is impossible to track almost 800 athletes' attendance.

After the Cleveland Heights vs. Maple Heights football game Sept. 17, an incident at a nearby Wendy's resulted in the arrest of four Shaker students for felony aggravated rioting. The students were Shaker football players who came and left the game peacefully. The athletes still played in the Shaker vs. Warrensville Heights football game Thursday, Sept. 23.

"The individuals involved were not in the wrong and no penalties were applied," said David Sedmak, athletic director and head football coach.

The football team takes sportsmanship seriously. Each player reads "Winner's Manual," a packet that includes lessons about attitude, respect and character.

"I would say rule violations in football are very infrequent," he said, adding that only three of his 85 players have violated the athletic code this year.

Sedmak believes most fights don't involve athletes, but that football games present an opportunity for students to make a spectacle.

"There are knuckleheads who look at it as a stage to attract attention," said Sedmak, noting that the Saturday afternoon atmosphere at Shaker's home games cuts down on violence.

Although not explicitly forbidden in the athletic code, hazing, which can include physical and verbal abuse, appears in the student handbook on a list of acts that will elicit disciplinary action.

Sedmak said he had no knowledge of hazing on the football team.

Brown noted that athletic ability does not influence rule enforcement. "I don't care how good they are," Brown said.

Yet, the athletic department does not consider itself a detective agency.

"Our philosophy is not to be police," Brown said.

Athletic code highlights

- 2.0 GPA and five core classes earning 2.5 credits required, program available to help borderline students
- Five unexcused absences in a class make an athlete ineligible
- Possession or use of alcoholic beverages, smoking materials, or illegal drugs prohibited
- Athletes may not violate city, state or federal codes or laws